

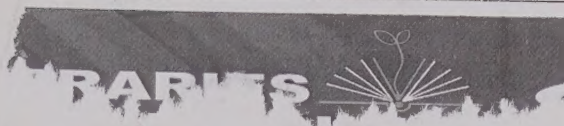
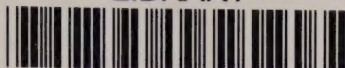
MILLENNIUM 2000

DERBY DEAF 1900 - 1999

by Harold Mold







When we were little children

We went to the field.

And gathered the daisy

We sat around on the ground

And made the daisy chain

To put them around our necks

And some lengths for our friends

For friendship as what

We are now friends and for ever.

Harold Mold.

Harold Mold

10th Aug 2002

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The profit from the sales of this book will be donated to:
Derby Deaf Club
Derby Deaf Over 60's Club
The Deaf Third World

Some of the proceeds will go towards the production of another
book containing photographs of the Derby Deaf Community.

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DERBY COLLEGE
LEARNING RESOURCE
CENTRE

DATE...10/11/23...

ACC NO...DC39745...

FORWARD

The Roe memorial House for the Adult Deaf was established in Friargate Derby in 1936. In 1961 a booklet was published to celebrate its first 25 years. This provides a small insight into the lives of local Deaf people at this time.

I am Deaf myself and have been involved with Deaf people all my life. Many of my Deaf friends and myself went to the Royal School for the Deaf and then the Roe memorial House for the Adult Deaf. When this closed, many of us formed and became members of the Derby Deaf Club at the Rycote Parker Street Derby. Here we continue to meet socially and organise social, sporting and religious activities.

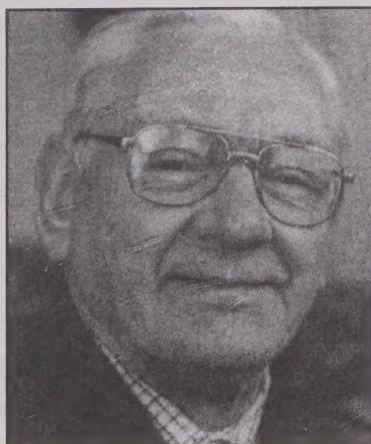
I thought I would ask my friends to relive their memories of the past. I asked them to recount how we used our skills in every day life; the work we did to earn our living; the relationships we made and the families we raised. I wanted to record our rich, colourful and sometimes turbulent lives, both for our own interest and for the younger generation. I think it is good to let others in the future know what happened in the past.

Nothing has been published about local Deaf people's lives since 1961. The coming of the year 2000 made me think that I would like to celebrate the Millennium by gathering together these memories of local Deaf people and publishing them in a book.

I would like to thank members for giving their memories and participating in producing this book. I hope they enjoy seeing the photos of old times!

God bless.

Harold Mold



I would like to thank the following people for letting me use their text and photographs in this book:

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Royal School for the Deaf

•

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•

Mrs. Gin Tait Trustee.

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(Trust Sixty Three)

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FROM A LITTLE ACORN A GREAT TREE GREW.

In about 1870, a gentleman of the name Dr. W. R. Roe, had his feelings aroused by the knowledge that there was no services or help for the Deaf and Dumb in Derby.

He began to gather in his room on Sundays a number of adult deaf people, for the purpose of giving them religious instruction. As the number of people attending increased, he held classes in the Baptist Chapel in St. Mary's Gate and for some years Dr. Roe devoted his spare time to helping and ministering to the adult deaf of the town and county.

In 1875, Dr. Roe brought about the formation of the 'Derbyshire Association In Aid of the Deaf and Dumb', which had as it's objective to improve the general welfare of the deaf and dumb of this district.

In 1880, the headquarters of the Association was at Mount Pleasant, off Victoria Street, Derby and here began the Institution as we know it today. Previously, the children had been sent out to outlying Institutions.

In 1882, there were sixteen children, in what had become, 'The Midland Deaf and Dumb Institution'. Increasing popularity, led them to move from Victoria Street to Lenham Parade, 67 Green Hill, temporarily, for by now the committee had decided that they were fully determined to build a special Institution for the deaf.

In 1884, the site in Friargate was purchased for £1,703 and in 1885 two houses on this site were occupied, as a temporary home, while plans were being drawn up on the erection of a modern purpose building on this site. This new building was to cost £12,000 to build. The foundation stone was laid on November 3rd. by the Duchess of Devonshire. Whilst the old home was being demolished, they had yet to make another temporary move, this time to Queen Street to what was the St. Michael's Institution.

With the new building completed in 1894, it was opened by the Duchess of Rutland on October 17th in the presence of supporters and prominent people of the county and town. It is worth noting that the stone carving that was on top of the main entrance was the work of a deaf stonemason.

In 1897, Queen Victoria gave permission for the name to be changed to 'The Royal Institute for the Deaf and Dumb'. It's address was 88 Friargate, Derby.

In 1909, the school block was opened by the Duchess of Portland. It was built at the cost of £5,000.

Dr. Roe passed away in 1920 and his son W. Carey Roe took over. And the rest of this short history is known to todays generation who proudly carry on hoping they are a credit to the founder.

"So from one gentleman's compassion and foresight, we now have a greater base, on which to face the world in confidence. As equals, regardless of our disability. We prefer to be known as just being deaf and we will continue to conquer. So repaying that gentleman's faith and hope in the deaf a million fold and taking our place in the hearing world as equals."

(A.Warburton)



67 Green Hill



Old buildings on the site before the Royal School for the Deaf was built



A blow-up of the sign, part hidden by the tree, announcing that it was to be the site of the new building

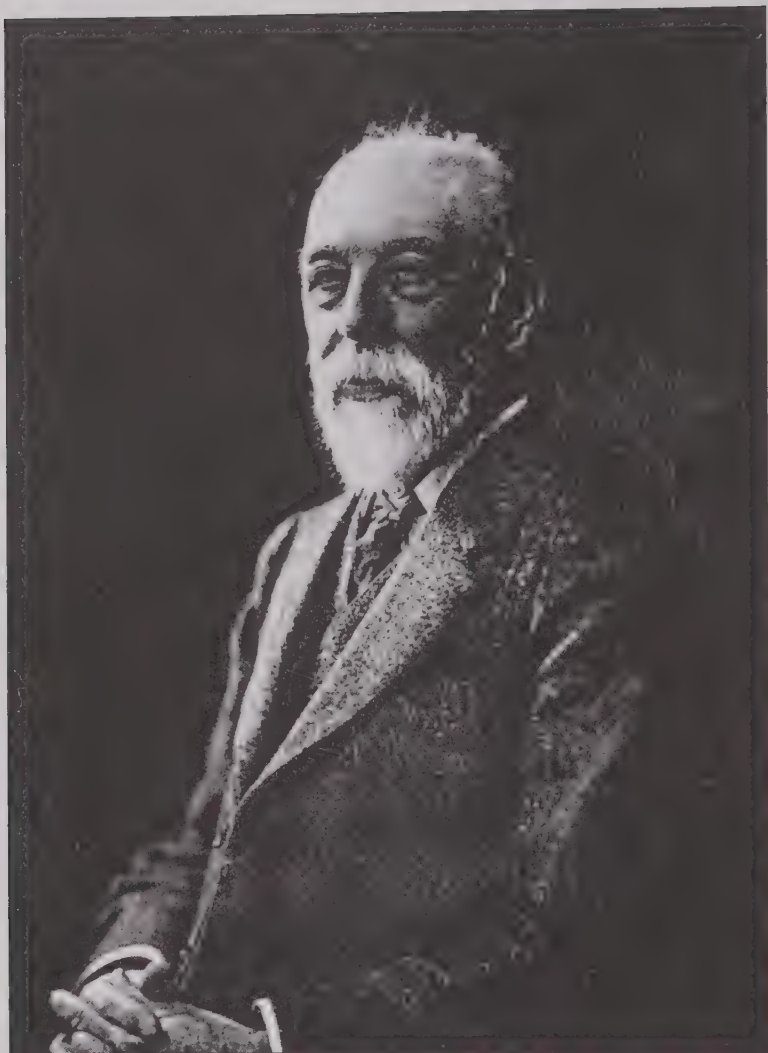
The photographs of the old homes and drawings have been laboriously re-painted by Neil Warburton



The drawing plan of
the Royal School for
the Deaf and Dumb,
Friar Gate, Derby



The Deaf School Recreation Grounds



Dr. W. R. Roe (1849-1920)

**Founder, and principal until his in 1920, of the
Royal Institute for the Deaf, Derby**

DR. W. R. Roe, PhD (1849-1920)

Dr. W. R. Roe was the Founder and Principal of the Royal School for the Deaf and Dumb, Derby.

It started in about 1870 when W. R. Roe realised there were no religious services held in Derby that meet the special needs of 'deaf and dumb' people as termed then.

So he invited a group of deaf adults to his room to give them religious instructions. Later, the number of deaf adults attending had grown so they moved into a room at the Baptist Chapel in St. Mary's Gate where he continued voluntarily for some years in helping and ministering deaf adults in Derbyshire.

In the beginning, Roe carried on with his leather business during the working hours which extended from 7.00am until 7.00pm and then he did his charitable work in the evenings and on Sundays. This was a great burden to his health so it was decided that a great effort should be made to enable him to abandon his business and to concentrate full-time on the work for the Deaf.

In 1875, Dr. Roe formed 'Derbyshire Association in the Aid of the Deaf & Dumb' to provide spiritual and welfare services for Deaf adults. By the end of 30th September, 1877, the report showed 200 visits in 20 towns and villages had been made; 300 meetings held and purchases of garments for the needy as necessary. The report also stated that many of the 'mutes' were uneducated.

He saw the need for deaf education which was not provided by the Government at the time. So for the next three years, he rallied around his friends, colleagues, employers and the Public, focusing their attention to this need for a school for deaf children. and the money to be raised.

Despite promises from the businessmen to participate, it was left to Dr. Roe to do all the donkey work with his devoted colleague, Sir Henry Bremrose who worked with him throughout the campaign and at the public meetings.

In 1880, the Headquarters of the Association was established at the Mount Pleasant, Victoria Street, Derby. This school was then called 'The Midlands Deaf and Dumb Institution' which had 16 children by 1882. The numbers grew so they moved to Lenham Parade, 67 Green Hill temporarily.

1884, the Committee raised and bought a site at Friar Gate for £1,703. In 1885 they had two houses on the site as temporary homes until the completion of this school-building work at the cost of £12,000. The stone foundation was laid by the Duchess of Devonshire on 3rd. of November, 1885 to be completed and opened by the Duchess of Rutland on 17th October, 1894. Sixty-four deaf children were admitted.

In January, 1894, the new law, 'Blind and Deaf Education Act', came into force. The Derby Institution was duly inspected and certified for 100 pupils but there were further demands for places that the institution could not meet. Later in the same year, the school became the 'Royal Institution for the Deaf and Dumb' with the permission of Queen Victoria. By 1898, it had 130 children with more demands for places that extensions were necessary and were built to the dining room and the main building, also a new large workshop over the boys' gymnasium to provide for 150 children.

It was through Dr. Roe's sheer faith and determination that he got his school. His role in life was that of a pioneer. He had to attack a thick forest of ignorance all about him and by sheer bluff and chaff with the hearts of the wealthy businessmen of Derby, many of whom, became great benefactors to the school.

Soon in 1900, the need increased and a better sickroom accommodation was urgently required. Mr. Walter Evans very generously provided the updated sanatorium which was built upon land to the east of the main building, which Sir Henry Beaumaris presented. In the same year, the Committee bought for £1,300 a house at Etwall for use as a Convalescent Home Branch for 12 children.

In 1904, three and half acres of land was purchased on the Markeaton estate from late Mrs. Mundy to form a Recreation Ground for use of the children. The cost was met by a 'Coronation Fund' inaugurated in 1897 to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

In 1908, with further need to expand and to provide more suitable classrooms, a new school block was built at the back of the Institution. This extension comprised of 18 classrooms and a Domestic Training room - completed in 1909, costing over £5,000 and was formally opened by the Duchess of Portland on 20th of July. The institution became certified for 165 children.

In 1925, purchases of adjoining property No.84 and 85 Friar Gate together with a piece of land adjacent to the school (school gardens and for open air work).

The Founder, the late Dr. W. R. Roe remained as Principal until his death in 1920. He was 'devotedly and ably assisted' by his wife. The institution, is in fact, a great monument of their great work accomplished for the benefit of the Deaf.

Roe would visit deaf children in their homes as soon as they come within his notice. He would get to know them and assess their capabilities and, if possible, begin their education. He did not neglect to draw the clergy and other influential people of the district and sought the support of similar Societies or organisations for the Deaf such as those at Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham, Liverpool and London.

The faith and enthusiasm of Dr. Roe had attracted a ready response among the Public and honoured names in supporting what was a small and struggling charity.

In later years he was awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the Gallaudet College in Washington, the University for the Deaf in America.

Dr. W. R. Roe had published several books about the Deaf Community highlighting their abilities and achievements in education and employment. He also wrote about some Deaf schools. In one of his books he wrote:

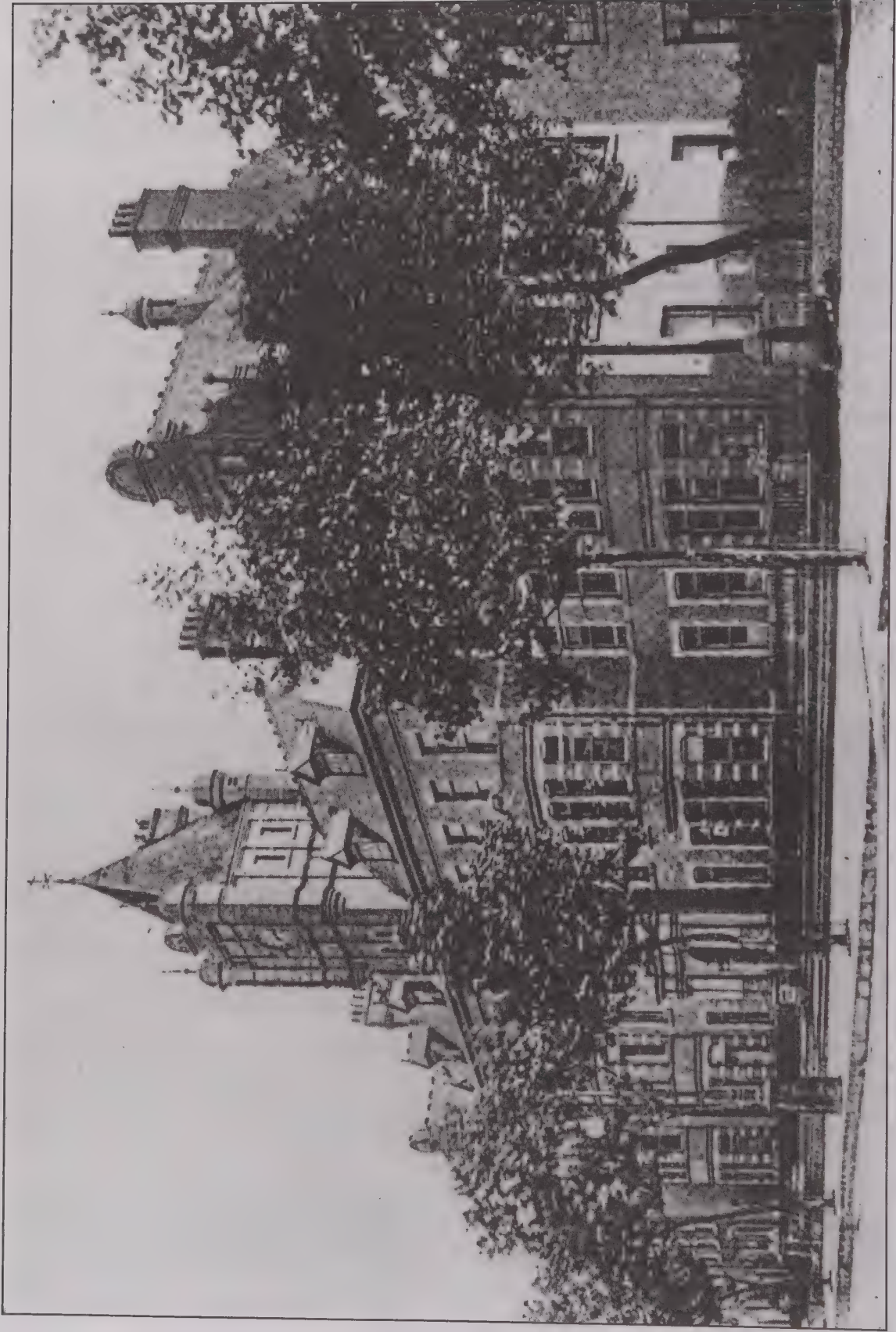
I DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO
My Deaf Friends

IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD. I COUNT ANY
SERVICE, HOWEVER LOWLY, RENDERED TO THEM
AS A PRIVILEGE AND A JOY.

I HAVE LIVED IN THE MIDST OF THEM NEARLY
ALL MY LIFE, AND HAVE LEARNT TO LOVE THEM.

IN EVERY ONE THERE IS A SPARK OF GOOD,
HOWEVER FEEBLE, AND I HAVE TRIED, BY GOD'S
HELP, TO FAN AND SPARK INTO A FLAME.

IT WILL BE SUFFICIENT REWARD TO ME IF IN
THIS LIFE, AND AFTER, I CAN BE KNOWN AND
REMEMBERED AS A SINCERE FRIEND OF THE
DEAF AND DUMB



Royal Institute for Deaf and Dumb Children, Friar Gate, Derby



Royal Institution for the Deaf, Derby.
Main Entrance
The carving was the work of a Born Deaf Sculptor



Mr. W. Carey Roe, B.A. Principal

CAREY ROE

Dr. Roe was succeeded in the headship of Derby in 1920 by his son Carey Roe. It was in Carey Roe time that fully established the Mission and Social Centre for the Adult Deaf of Derby and Derbyshire was founded, hitherto the care of adults had been undertaken by the school itself as an extension of his work to people many of whom would have been pupils of the Derby School.

The first premises of the Mission were, in fact, built as part of the school 'campus', it was only later that the buildings were established separately. Carey Roe began as a trainee teacher at the Mount School for the Deaf and Dumb of Stoke-on-Trent under A. J. Storey, the Principal. Mr. Storey had himself taught at Derby Deaf School in 1894 for three years so there was a strong connection with the Mount School. Also receiving training was the future Mrs. Carey Roe, Vera. Carey Roe returned to Derby to help his father in the managing of the school and when his father retired in 1922 he succeeded to the head-ship.

He, rapidly, became a well-known figure among the teachers and had edited their magazines. In 1930 he became the Chairman of the National College of Teachers for the Deaf. He was elected as Vice-Chairman of the N.I. and in 1946 was awarded the O.B.E. for his services to the deaf.

It was his idea to create the Centre for the Deaf as a separate initiative to the school. In fact he became well-known and respected by both the teachers and the Workers of the Deaf Adults and also the Deaf Community. Carey Roe died in 1951 at the age of 65 years.



Dining Hall



Pupils and Staff, April 1930

JOE MORLEY
(Born 1902 died 19/6/99)

It gives me great pleasure to give my life story, I have now lived a good life - many happy memories with many deaf and hearing people in the past to which I remember a few.

Being born in 1902 I am the 5th. of the 8th. in the family, 5 sisters and 3 brothers. I was the only one in the family who was deaf. I was sent to Leeds hospital to investigate my hearing and learned that I was totally deaf. I went to the Royal School for the Deaf, Friar Gate, Derby. I spent many years at school, doing sports, out-door activities, when I was about 7-8 years old Dr. Roe took me in his horse-carriage to Etwall for convalescent. Other times mostly in the summer we travelled to Etwall by train from No 1 next door station with the trolley loads of food and equipment. Being through the 1914-1918 1st. World War we do normally way of life.

I left school at the age of 16 the day after the war ceased on November 12th. 1918. My mother found me a job as a shoe-repairer at "Potts" in Sadler Gate, Derby. Then went to various shoe-repair shops. My first weekly wage 12/= equal now to 60 pence.

I attended the deaf club at Full Street with about 12-15 members. Mr. Carey Roe provided us small rooms and I caring the members and then we moved to Curzon Street.

My family and I lived at Littleover our home was a cottage which was stood where the Kwik-Save now stands near the opposite 'The Moon' public house. The cottage has had a very large garden with orchard and many fruit bushes. My hearing brother George and I are very close together. We played football, cricket, cycled. I won a silver medallion playing as a goal-keeper for my Sunday School Club and a number of trophies and cups. I do remember a new bicycle cost between £2-3, cigarette 4d (3p) for 10 and the bus fare from Littleover to Derby town were 2d (1p).

In 1935/6 I saw King George V and Queen Mary pass at Burton Road and Warwick Avenue. I Saw the opening of the Roe Memorial House for the Adult Deaf, Friar Gate, Derby and the new Superintendent Mr. Kelly. After some years on we formed the committee. Members played billiards, snooker, darts, whist, dominoes etc. and we formed a team which played games in the hearing league matches. We have several cups and trophies as winners of games.

Edith my wife was one of the committee and a wonderful cook making lovely cakes and a happy 47 years married life.



Joe Morley and his wife Elsie on the right of the Photograph





Rev. Peter Wyatt left
Joe Morley right



Joe receiving a presentation for longest to the Over 60's Club



Harold Mold preparing this book

HAROLD MOLD

My vivid memory at the early age of 4 before I became deaf, I believed. With my sister and some other kids I went to the other side of the village of Pinxton from home walking through the fields and passed the church of St. Helen's further down the road toward the railway station and got there, at the end of the canal. There was a short row of a few very old houses, at the end of the houses was a sweet shop, we all went in and I bought bulls eye sweet at Ha'penny each. During that time I remember we were chattering to each other taking the bulls eye sweet out of my mouth seeing different colours as it goes smaller, it was a grand day. Outside the shop there was no pavement the surface of the pavement was of hard core, sort of ashes and very dusty. Some years later the house and shop was knocked down and filled in. The canal I remember the public were using the farthing 1/4 d in a legal tender.

Soon after that time I had very bad whooping cough which made me become deaf and went to hearing school at the age of five for about one year. Then I went to the former Royal School for the Deaf Institution, Friargate, Derby in 1932. I remember the very first day arriving at school with my mother and father. We were shown into the boardroom. My father brought me a fixed three-wheel cycle for me to play with, The next day I never saw the cycle again.



New Year's Party 1933. Harold, 3rd. from the left, front row.

On the first morning at breakfast I had a mug of cocoa, porridge and a slice of bread and dripping. I ate the porridge and the bread and dripping at the same time. The supervisor, a deaf lady Miss Pill, looked after me and made sure that everything was alright. Every day Monday to Saturday we had the same breakfast no change. At dinner we had a variety of vegetables, meat stew etc. Sometimes we had a lump of fat on our dinner plate and were told to eat the lump of fat. We were not allowed to leave anything on the side of the plate. Some of the boys wrapped the fat up in their handkerchief and later flushed the fat down the toilets. The pudding we had were mainly steam puddings or sago, very seldom did we have rice and whey. The children used to call sago frog spawn. Most of the children hated sago, I myself enjoyed it and some times had a second helping. At tea we had two slices of bread and dripping and a mug of tea. It was all very plain. Some children brought their own jam, marmite or eggs. Yes we used to have jam or marmite on bread and dripping. On Sunday for breakfast we had a slice of bacon, half a slice of fried bread and another slice of bread and dripping and a mug of cocoa. For our midday we had cold meat, roast potatoes and cabbage and a pudding. I hated that meal on Sunday because the food was served cold with a mug of cold water to drink. For tea on Sunday we had two slices of bread and butter with a dessert spoon of Jam and a slice of barm cake. That was the only meal of the day that we all enjoyed because we were sick of bread and dripping. Sunday was very special for us. There were only three meals a day we never had any supper.



During the earlier year, in our class room my teacher Miss. Clarke took us on a tram (above) from outside our school to the Midland station, the fare was 1 1/2d (penny and Ha'penny) we went into the station to look around and they allowed us to spend a 1d (a penny) on a chocolate machine we had a bar of nestle chocolate and returned to school on a tram. Quite a bit of excitement to go exploring out of school.

Most Wednesdays and Saturdays the boys played football and cricket. The girls played hockey. At the age of 12 years old we learned to swim and the senior boys joined the St. John swimming club every Thursday night. At the age of 14-15 the boys had to have training for the Royal Life Saving Society swimming. We passed and received the Royal Life Saving Society certificate and bronze medallion, the medallion which cost 18/- that was 1940 which was a lot of money in those days.

We had an annual field sports day which was held in June on Ashbourne Road sports ground which is now the site for the present Royal School for Deaf. It was a magnificent display with flags all round the ground. Messrs. Hulme of Sadler Gate provided a speaker van to broadcast the events. Many of the local high ranking officials attended - the Lord and Lady Mayor, and Alderman. Winners of the races who came first, second and third all received excellent prize. To this day I still have some of those prizes. (below: 4th. on left, gentleman in white trilby hat is the headmaster Mr. Roe)



RSD Sports Day 1934. Harold 4th. in line.

Also in the summer we looked forward to the annual day trip to Skegness. The L.N.E.R. at Friar Gate laid a special carriage in yellow and green which went non stop there and back. I always treasure the happy times with the class mates.

Then the war came and the food and clothing rationing was in force. The school authority had to accept the food rationing with its fair share of butter, margarine and dripping on alternate days. The children jumped for joy because we were fed up with the dripping. Sometimes we had raw grated carrot for tea with bread and butter with the onset of the war. There were no more trips to Skegness but the Royal School for Deaf continued the annual field sports day and instead of the usual prizes the winners were given war saving stamps instead. During the war about late 1941 - to early 1942 I was in an upper building classroom overlooking the L.N.E.R. grounds sidings when we saw the arrival of Indian Gurka troops with their horses. The soldiers wore very smart uniforms. Our headmaster Mr. Roe came to our classroom and selected some of the boys about 15 of us to go to a place somewhere near St. Luke's Church area. We went into a Black Maria van to and fro and there we were to assemble the civilian gas masks. We produced about 200 in the first evening 5-7p.m. and then at the end of 4 nights we did over 300 gas masks. We all enjoyed and were proud to give our efforts to the Government and King. Every time we went into the Black Maria van to and fro, the passers by pondered over what was going on. Had we been naughty? No - we hadn't.

At the school field sports ground there was a war time trench being dug beside the all between the 2 pavilions in case of German invasion. There used to be a small cottage beside the present main gate and the old lady who lived there made wonderful rhubarb jam from rhubarb grown in another part of the ground, also the senior boys grew vegetables to help our war rations.

When I was about to leave school I was provided with a new suit, tie and a pair of socks, also not to forget the peak cap which looked rather old fashioned when wearing the cap. The school gave me my clothing coupon book. My mother learned of this and said it was not good enough, where was the underwear and work wear? I had to wear a new suit to work. My parents had to surrender their coupons to get the necessary items. Good old Friar Gate School, it was fun, some-times sad, good teachers and staff, but some-times not. I was in school for years.

Mr. Kelly the Superintendent for the Deaf took me in his old Morris 8 to Mansfield Co-op and Chesterfield Co-op but no jobs were available. then on the same day he took me to Nottingham Co-op, eventually they took me in and I started the next day. I felt so strange being in an open world after being enclosed for so long in school.

Yes it was really hard for me to face new people and the environmental surrounds in Nottingham - a large city. I worked as a shoe repairer which the factory had recently set up again in the upper building because the butcher dept. was the previous shoe repair dept. as this was bombed and completely destroyed. I was trained as an all round bench man, hand sewing badly worn shoes i.e. replacing welt, toe cappings and patches. New shoes were unobtainable, only a limited amount of clothing coupons available to be spent. One day in 1944 the U.S. army brought 700 pairs of boots to be repaired which was to be done in 2 days. Unknown to us it was in preparation for D-Day. It was sheer hell as every one of to 35 staff was rushing almost non-stop for 2 days. There were 4 deaf men working with us. My first weekly wage was 33/- a week. After 7 years at the Co-op I started up my own shoe-repair business in Giltbrook near Eastwood. The charge for men's shoe soles and heels was 11/6d and the ladies soles and heels were 8/6d. Then I moved to Derby and married Elsie Coles in 1953 I still remained as shoe repair business at Holcombe Street also at St. Thomas Road. Still living at Holcombe Street some of the deaf motor cyclist would meet at our house and organise to go to motor cycle races at Mallory Park, Oulton Park and various places. Elsie and I had a daughter and a son, then we moved to our present address at Chaddesden in 1960 and a few years later I gave up the business and worked at Qualcast lawn mower factory as an assembler. In 1970 after seven years working there I was awarded the sum of £300.00 for suggesting the redesigning of the changes to the Superlite Panther roller mower which resulted in a substantial saving in assembly time and cost. I was one of the largest awarded people since the suggestion scheme was introduced more than 20 years ago.



**Harold receiving the
award from Mr. Wright,
Works Manager**

After 15 years working there, I went back to being a shoe repair at Derby Co-op for about 2 years and other various jobs, which then forced me to an early retirement through ill health. I now spend more time at the allotment which I have had for 39 years and I took one more plot about 12 years ago, enjoying every minute, growing organic fruits and vegetables. Other hobbies included some tapestry and woodworking.

In 1993 September, the first Festival of Deaf Culture was held at the Royal School for the Deaf at Ashbourne Road, I had been asked to open the special occasion, and many people came to see the festival.

I am now enjoying my activities with the over 60's Club as a Chairperson organising the fortnightly Wednesday Bingo, Spring - Fayre and Bazaar, 4 outings a year, once a year Harvest in the Autumn which is held at the deaf chapel, also myself and Elsie are pastoral assistants in service once a month for the over 60's, 2 Sundays a month, also once a month at Chesterfield Jontine Centre. I am also the vice President for the Deaf Social Club. I have always been interested and loved to be among the deaf people at Roe Memorial House for the Deaf and the present Rycote Centre.



RSD. 1935, Class Mates

Top row, left to right
P. Stevens, M. Brammar, Miss. Clarke,
J. Garnett, H. Mold.

Front row left to right
N. Garnett, J. Needham, S. Bright,
D. Cuzon, P. Wall, J. Hall.



RSD. 1937

Left - J. Wood
Middle - H. Mold
Right - P. Stevens

In 1948 I bought a 1937 Triumph 250cc motor cycle. There was still petrol rationing at the time and I was allowed 1 1/2 gallons a month. It took me about 18 months before I passed the test. Then I bought a brand new B.S.A. 350cc motor cycle as shown on the bill. Then the petrol was unrationed a few months later

HENSTOCKS

1150

126 CHESTERFIELD RD, NORTH

22/4/50

PHONE: MANSFIELD 829

MR HAROLD WILLIAM MOLD.

1. ALFRED ST

PINXTON.

Notes.

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pphem rail
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Frame N°

Reg N° LLN 394

Price with Speedometer 114-0-0

Purchase Tax 31-11-11

License 10-4.

£149-2-3

Allowance for Stamp Duty 40-2-3

109-0-0

Deposit to Pay 39-0-0

40-0-0

Charges 5-12-0

75-12-0

Balance @ 12 months

6-6-0



1950/51 at the Bath Hotel,
Matlock Bath



Left to right:
Walter Lilley
Elsie Coles
Percy Holmes



Left to right:
M. Evans
E. Chadwick
H. Mold
L. Cabourn



1949/50. Roe House





Barbara Gash. 21st Birthday



Eric Barnes. 21st Birthday



Nottingham Deaf Club 1947





New Year 1954. St. John School



Church Group at Newstead Abbey



Harold Mold at his own shoe repair business.



Mr. Leask, Harvest Festival at Roe House, Friar Gate

F. W. BILL KELLY

F. W. Bill Kelly began as a teacher at the Penn School for the Deaf near Wycombe, a school which largely catered for Deaf children with additional handicaps. In 1936 he moved to the School for the Deaf at Derby where he served mainly with reference to Adult Deaf People in Derby. The school was intimately bound up with the work for the Adult Deaf population as we have already indicated. Bill Kelly served at Derby for 18 years until he moved to Wolverhampton as a Superintendent in 1954 to the profound regret of the Deaf Community in Derby.

Mr. Kelly followed the Reverend B. B. Morgan at Wolverhampton. He remained there for 12 years, covering a huge area from Stafford in the North to Shrewsbury in the West. In all this, he was supported by his wife, who took the full part in all his activities, often camping out in an upstairs room at the Centre for the Deaf in Shrewsbury while her husband was on Safari there. The Kelly couple stayed at Wolverhampton until 1966 when they moved to Portsmouth so as to be nearer their family in the Channel Islands.

I myself was their successor at Wolverhampton. I remember taking a coach load of his former 'Deaf Family' from Wolverhampton to visit him at Portsmouth. When we arrived he stood at the bottom of the coach steps and kissed all his of friends, one by one, as they stepped out on to the pavement. They were indeed member of his 'family'.

A Deaf friend from Derby, Mr. Dennis Booth recalls how Bill Kelly persuaded the Rolls Royce personnel Manager to give him a job. Rolls Royce had never employed a Deaf person before and they raised all kinds of objections of matters of risk or injury, insurance, communication training, union objections and all the old hoary chestnuts we all have met so often in the past. Kelly went back there again and again for three months until in the end Rolls Royce agreed to give young Mr. Booth, who was on the point of leaving school, a trial. booth had not only stayed at Rolls Royce for 41 years but was so successful that the firm accepted a further 20 Deaf people. Indeed I, myself, found at the Rolls Royce branch in Shrewsbury a similar acceptance of Deaf youngsters into the factory. Kelly had obviously done a good work there.

Booth said that Kelly also found jobs for Deaf people at Qualcast, Leys, British Celanese, Ford Weston, Rowley's Moore Eady and Crown Derby and many other firms. He said that the Derby Deaf members were 'heartbroken' when Kelly left, but had kept in touch with him while he was at Wolverhampton and Portsmouth.

Mr. Booth also said that Kelly was a good 'Missioner' as well a good social worker, always very conscientious about his Church services and the quality of his signed sermons which were always greatly appreciated. And he was good at football, cricket and indoor games, especially at cards.

Bill Kelly died in 1987 at the age of 75.



Left to right: George Lambe, Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Kelly

MRS. NANCY ALLAWAY

My 5 Years Stay at the Royal School for the Deaf, Friar Gate, Derby. (1925-1930).

I was born in the year 1914 and at 5 years old I attended a hearing school, but at 11 years old, I became deaf through illness. I had to go to a Deaf School in 1925. It was at the Royal School for Deaf, Friar Gate. I had not learned very much from the hearing school.

I settled down very quickly and I learned sign language which had helped my education. I worked my way up to the top. I was a Captain of my school team for two years, then I became the Head Girl for the last 2 years of my stay.

I was very happy in my school days. We had good food which was bread and dripping for breakfast every morning. It kept us going through out the day until we had a hot meal for dinner. The teachers were very good and they worked very hard to teach us.

We were all very friendly and taught each other sign language. We were never bored as we had games, country dancing, and drill. We had competitions against other Deaf Schools, also Hearing Schools. We also had Brownie and Girl Guide groups. We went camping for 2 weeks each year. We also had an annual outing to Skegness and loved it, but if any one had been naughty in the past and had bad marks, they would miss either the seaside trip or a cinema show. We had 6 weeks holiday in the Summer and 2 weeks at Christmas. Also a day out with the family on a Sunday once a month for those whose homes were not far away.

The older girls attended church services with one of the teachers for company on Sunday mornings. We shared with the boys, a work rota once a month in the dining room, and the washing up. Between lessons at school we had sewing, dressmaking and cane weaving in which we enjoyed. It was useful for our future life after we left school.

We also had cookery once a week, we cooked our own dinner on that day. We also baked some cakes and Christmas cakes to take home with us at Christmas. We also did the gardening in the school grounds. When it was fine we would go out and dig and plant things.

Sometimes there was a competition against other classrooms, we loved it. Our Principal Mr. Carey Roe and his wife had learned a lot from his father, Doctor William Roe, to guide them in their future work.

Dr. Roe found the first deaf people and took them to his home and taught them sign language which brought them into civil life to improve their future. I did not know Dr. William Roe as he died before I attended the school. But his wife lived some years after him, and I knew her while at school. She was a lovely person and loved the deaf people. We still have a photo of her hanging on our Deaf Club Wall. We are hoping to add her husband, Doctor Roe, beside her soon. After my five years at school I was ready to leave at 16 years old. I was sorry to leave, there were 6 girls and 6 boys leaving at the same time at Christmas 1930. So all twelve of us were invited to attend a tea party and 'farewell' at Mrs. Carey Roe's house in Derby. We had a lovely time. She presented us all with a gift of a Bible.

I am 85 years old now and I still attend our 'Over 60's' Club in Rycote Centre. In 1933 I met my school boy friend and we married in 1937, sadly he passed away in April 1983. We have two lovely grown-up sons born 1938 and 1945, both married and are working well in their lives now.

Our Over 60's Club is well attended on a Wednesday fortnightly. We have church services on those days, also on a Sunday every two weeks. Our Vicar and his wife Pam are very nice. We enjoy their services. Sometimes we have Sunday trips to see 'Well Dressings'. So I hope you have enjoyed my school day stories.



Laundry class. Nancy on the ponche tub



Dressmaking room. Nancy 2nd on the right



Net-ball game.



Holding shield, Captain Ray Allaway, Nancy's husband



Nancy being presented for long service at Derby Deaf Club's 25 year anniversary

GEORGE WHITE

I was eight years old when I went to Derby Deaf School in 1923.

Education was good but not enough and it was very well above average. On leaving school in 1930 I managed to mix with hearing people by joining in sports, scouts and outings.

Jobs were not easy to find for deaf people. I was a lorry mate, delivering goods - only temporary in the summer months for two years.

My Father wrote and asked for an interview for me, saying that his relations have worked for the company for over 100 years service. I was sent to see the Chief Engineer, in drawing office, who saw me saying, 'He's my boy'. He offered me a job as a Tracer, and I was very good at it. Somehow I wanted to get on further to Detailing Draughtsman and was told that I need to know maths, metal strength, weight, etc. These subjects were not taught at the Deaf School. There were no evening classes at college or interpreters for deaf people. They suggested to me to have a home study course from London - International Correspondence Schools Ltd. I did this for two years and got a pass with a certificate.

I moved on to Detailing Draughtsman for some years, later I became a Design Draughtsman. I retired after 46 years in the drawing office in 1980.

I also played outside and inside sports with deaf people. I formed the Deaf Cricket Team and arranged fixtures against hearing teams. Today 200 young deaf persons enjoy a lot of things - mix with hearing people. Deaf College have interpreters etc, which I didn't have in my day.





George at his drawing board



George and his laughing mate



Left to right:
Olwen White, Ida Dove,
Nancy Allaway
Marjorie Robinson



George in 1970

ROSA BETTERIDGE (NOW WEBSTER)

Rosa is hearing and has three brothers and a sister who are all deaf and all of them attended the Royal School for Deaf in Derby. The brothers names are James (Jim) George and Arthur and a sister Dorothy Webster.

Dorothy got married to Mark Murden in the early 1930's. He worked at Qualcast Victory Road as a fitter and worked there for many years, he received a clock for 25 years service then went on to work a few more years until he had to retire, owing to ill health.

My youngest brother, Arthur also worked at Qualcast after he left school, he has made many friends there. The worst part was having to turn out very early in the morning during the war blackout, especially during the winter months and we walked there from Alvaston. At that time he lodged with my sister Dorothy and brother in law Mark. He left there in 1940 to help out on my parents farm as my only hearing brother had died from his injuries in a ploughing accident at the early age of thirty.

This is the letter that Mrs. Betteridge wrote to the Derby Evening Telegraph in Feb/Mar 1998. It said:-

'I must thank Mr. Harold Mold, for the report in Bygones about his school days at the Royal School for the Deaf.

I have been waiting to see if a past pupil would be writing about being there. I had three brothers and a sister educated there. The youngest one was Arthur Webster, I think you may remember him.



Arthur with newborn calf with mother

They used to talk about the food, it being mainly bread and dripping, breakfast and tea. They did also say Mr. Roe was very strict with the boys and Mrs. Roe with the girls.

Boys and girls kept apart, both in school and out at play. When Mr. Roe retired, before they left they invited my eldest brother, James, to their farewell tea party.

Then came a new principal, a Mr. Whittaker, Then I was told things began to change for the better. I went some years to the sports events with my sister, which I enjoyed.

Then in the evening we went to the Roe Memorial Club in Friar Gate for the deaf. We had a great time, everybody was so friendly, being able to sign with them.

A Mr. and Mrs. Kelly lived at the club then. When Arthur left school he went to work at Qualcast during part of the war years. While he was there he was taken ill, came home to see his doctor for treatment eventually he recovered.

Sadly one of my brothers, the only one able to hear, died owing to an accident while ploughing. He was very much missed by all the family.

My sister on leaving school went work at the Etwall Isolation Hospital, then later to Ilkeston General Hospital and finally the Woman's Hospital until her marriage in 1938.

Another sister worked at the school for a number of years until she retired.'



Jim with one of the bulls he looked after on father's farm



Arthur on the right in school uniform



School photo



Back row: left J. Gutteridge, right J. Webster
 Middle row: left H. Beck, right E. Pill
 Front row: middle G. Brown, 2nd from right P. Hill



Brother George
 working on
 the hay field

HAZEL GARNETT

School Days in Derby 1930's to 1940's

School Days at the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby were tough. Children were taught by the oral method and if anyone was caught signing it usually resulted in black marks. Not all the teachers were hard but it was a strict school and one teacher I particularly remember was over strict bordering on the sadistic. When she was on duty many of the children were very nervous from morning until evening when she went off duty. One morning in school the Upper level were coming down the school steps and this teacher was standing at the bottom where she got hold of me shaking, slapping and violently knocking my head about. I was shocked to the core not knowing what I had done wrong. Half dazed I picked up what she said and that was 'I told you not to hold onto the rail'. She seemed totally ignorant of the fact that children who have lost their hearing through illness usually had poor balance. My balance is atrocious as a result of meningococcal meningitis which she no doubt knew. There were scores of ill treatment by this teacher, as proof of nerves I only menstruated during the long summer holidays at home. She was mannish by appearance and taught her class which I was in by total oralism. Sometimes this was an ordeal. We mocked the teachers we didn't like and called them names, 'Miss. Frog Eyes', 'Miss. Rabbit Teeth' etc. Some of my deaf friends could do perfect imitations of the teachers' mannerisms which were hilarious. Woe betide them if even they were caught.

One or two teachers were really nice and we warmed to them but they could not show favouritism. I particularly liked the Country Dance teacher and the Headmistress who had an endearing habit of putting her arm round your necks when marking books catching the soft neck skin in her long fingernails and pulling it which made me jump but I didn't mind. Her scripture stories were wonderful. She came from Worcester and was proud of her Cathedral.



Hazel on the left with her faithful dog, Sam



Girl's playground

AUDREY EVANS

With my family brothers and sister I lived in Lincolnshire. My father was in the R.A.F. before the war, stationed at Cranwell. My older sister Joyce is deaf. My mother and father took her to see the doctor who told them the choices of school to go to. Either to Derby or to Margate. Finally my parents chose and I went to Derby. Some years later my family attended the Annual School Sports and when I was about one year old and being deaf too, my parents had a talk with the headmaster, Mr. Roe and promised him that I would be sent to Royal School for the deaf when the time comes. Later my father in the R.A.F. was transferred to Pembroke Dock near Swansea. My sister Joyce continued to attend the R.S.D.

I was nearly five years old when my parents called the education office in Pembroke Dock to send me to Derby Deaf School but was refused and that I must attend the Swansea Deaf School so my parents went to court to settle the dispute. Finally my parents had to pay the fees for me to attend school at Derby.

Arriving the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby in September 1935 with my sister Joyce and my father, I was happy and smiling. But when my father left me in the Principals room, I was slightly confused and thought I was going back home with him. I was saddened and a few tears fell down my cheeks. Then I went along with my sister, Joyce and it was soon forgotten. I was in school with Joyce for 9 months, until she left school at the age of 16.

My happiest time was the annual trip to Skegness. It was always brings back memories of a certain day in the last summer before the war broke out. We went to Skegness for the day by a special train on the old L.N.E.R. from Friar Gate Station which was next door to the school. It was a glorious day and the trip was being filmed. The signification of this wasn't apparent then.

At Skegness we did all the usual things, paddling in the sea; playing in the sand. Going to the fair and treating ourselves to ice-cream. it was a marvellous day and we returned to Derby tired and happy. Soon after the war broke out were unable to visit Skegness again for several years but we had the film. It was shown to us several times to remind us of this happy and memorable day. To this day I still have a clear picture of that special day at Skegness.

Whilst the war was on I went home for Christmas 1941, before being sent back to school in January, my mother took me to see the doctor for an examination. The doctor told her that I cannot go back to Derby for some reason. Cancelling the train service and stayed at home for another two weeks. Eventually my mother took me back to Derby by train, the train stopped several times on the line for a long time, the carriage window blind was drawn down and I couldn't see where we were going. On arriving at Derby station late evening, the station police told us to stay at the station waiting room overnight. Next morning my mother and I set off and walked to school. I was put to bed for a few hours. I was so cold and tired. My mother wasn't expecting any problems during travelling. If she had she would of stayed at Audrey's friend that lived in Derby overnight; but with being delayed in travelling mother had to go back home because of my sisters and brother at home left caring for themselves. It was an hectic and frustrated time. It took me 2 days travelling to and from. Possibly the train were busy transporting the ammunition and weapons and service men or the heavy bombing had damaged the lines around Birmingham, Coventry and other places.

While still at school, I myself and some of the girls caught chicken pox and were put in an isolated dormitory. I received a parcel from my parents which contained sweets, chocolate, soap, and tube of what I didn't know what it is. One night the dormitory myself including Elsie Coles (Mold), Ruth Davidson and 2 other girls used the tube-paste, spread it on our faces thinking it would make us more beautiful. Then a lady supervisor, Mrs. Gibson, who is deaf, caught us in the act and Said 'Silly and naughty girls. She was signing in a flash and was cross with us, told us that the tube was for cleaning teeth! Mrs. Gibson brought a bowl of water to wash our face. After she finished attending to us she said 'She should of finished working their and was late for home to cook dinner for her husband'.

As usual, I received letters from my parents and my sister Joyce. She had collected some cuttings of cartoon strips of 'Jane and her dog Fritz' from the Daily Mirror and sent them to me. She had sewn one end of the 4 or 5 strips to keep them in order. My teacher saw what I had and said it was disgusting. She wrote to my mother asking her not to send any more.

After leaving school I worked at Smith's Watch factory in Swansea. I met Marcus Evans at Swansea Deaf Club and we got married. Marcus went to Portland Training college near Mansfield on

Woodworking for 6 months. Marcus had a job waiting for him as a Cabinet maker in Nottingham; but he was told on the day that he couldn't have the job because of the machinery. Marcus came to Derby as a joiner and I came to Derby to be with Marcus. I worked at Hampshire Chemistry and Toiletries for 4 years until I had a baby daughter, Vanessa. I did a part-time job in R.S.D. sewing and repairing children's clothes for a short while. Then I went to work at Birds' Confectionery for 15 years until I retired.



**My class mates and teacher
Miss. C. Taylor**



**Left to right: Audrey Heath,
Doreen Brook, Margaret Yedmans**



Left: Gladys Darwin. Right: Audrey Heath



A day out



Left to right:
Marcus Evans, Ernest Chadwick, Harold Mold, Lawrence Cabourn



Back row: Marcus Evans, Charles Lowndes, Harold Mold
Front row: Joyce Davies, Valerie Lowndes, Audrey Evans



Left: Marcus Evans. Right: Brian Clough



Back: Marcus Evans
Ladies left to right:
Audrey Evans, Marjorie Lumley, Joyce Davies, Barbara Booth



Left: Bob Dixon. Right: Marcus Evans



Left to right: Marcus Evans, Walter Lilley, Bernard Gibson, Kathleen Lilley



Left to right: Gillian, Jane Hainsworth, Marcus Evans



Left to right: Jean Courton, Ralph Courton with a friend.





Left to right: Audrey Evans, Gladys Thacker



Left to right: Gladys Thacker, Elsie Mold



**Colin Cook
and
Audrey Evans**



**Left to right:
Colin and Jennifer Biggerstaff, Hazel Garnett, Christine Biggerstaff,
Dennis Booth, Colin and Ivy Cook, Carol Biggerstaff and daughter Angela**





Satnding left to right:
Sister Lilley, Reverend Peter Wyatt, Harold Mold



Reverend Peter Wyatt

ELSIE MOLD

At the age of two I fell down stairs from the top of the stairs banging my head on the stone floor at the bottom. I presumed that my hearing was gradually lost, later I learned that I was totally deaf. At the early age of three and four, one dark winter night, I went to the outside toilet which was combined with the coal house at the bottom of the garden. My brother took me there with a candle. When I was sitting, my brother heard something in a pile of coal, probably a mouse. As his arm with the candle moved toward my head, my hair caught fire. I ran to my mother who picked me up and turned me upside down, she plunged my head in a bowl of water in a deep stone sink. I went to St. Anne's (Hearing) School at the age of five.



'Elsie' during her school days.

In 1937 at the age of six, my mother took me to Royal School for Deaf, Friar Gate, Derby. When my mother left me I kicked Mr. Roe, the Headmaster, the supervisor and the teacher. After a few days I settled down. In the classroom it was very hard for me to speak correctly and do writing. As a young girl in junior class, the teacher asked the children to write down the names of my family, brothers and sisters including my mother and father. The teacher smacked me several times to correct the writing excluding the word, father, which I did not have. I cried so much and had always thought I had one. When I went home for my holiday I learned it was my eldest brother, who was acting as my father. It was then that I found out my father had died when I was two years old in 1933 through a wound from a shrapnel in the jaw in the first world war. When I went back to school again and wrote my family's names without mentioning the name of my 'father'. The teacher was pleased. I was really hurt as most of the children had fathers. At my early teenage years I saw my mother walking past the school, looking through the window I waved to my mother and the teacher gave me some bad marks, which meant that the more bad marks I got, the high total would prevent me from seeing the over head projector, cinema film shown on a special day once a month.

The Headmaster comes around and checks the children with the high marks, then asked the question, 'Why did it Happen'. The Headmaster asked me what happened. I told the Headmaster that I waved to my mother and he let me go to see the picture. I was overjoyed becoming the senior girl I took the part of looking after the pupils both boys and girls at the age of three to four years as a nanny at first in the morning and then late in the evening putting them to bed. I lived at Brook Street West End which is only a ten minute walk to school yet I had to sleep in and do the domestic work, peeling the potatoes before I entered the classroom in the morning and in the evening every Monday darning the socks, I have always enjoyed the activities, outdoor sports, also swimming.

I left school and went to work at Moore and Eady in a hosiery factory as a socks mender for a few years and went to Newton Bros. as an electric motor winder. I got married to Harold Mold and had a daughter and a son and have had a very happy forty six years married life.



Elsie Coles (Mold)
9 months, 2 days old



TOPICAL PICTURES
CORONATION YEAR
1937



The school



Annual Sports Day, Elsie 2nd row, 4th from the right

NORMAN BURROWS

My name is Norman Burrows and I am from Nottinghamshire. I was born on 14th December 1919. My Father tried to send me to a hearing school next door but had failed. I was there for two days but it was no good. My Father's half-brother, who lived in Derby, told him that there was a Deaf School in Derby.

So my Father took me to Derby when I was seven years old but then I had no teeth. They started to grow until I had a full set of teeth when I was ten and half years old. The school teachers and the children had been very good, really good with me. Sometime later when I was fourteen, I looked after the deaf children aged from 8 to 11 years. I started to play football and cricket when I was 14 years old. The best sport for me was cricket, football was okay. Cricket is my favourite game.

I then left school when I was sixteen and worked on a farm with my Father and I remained deaf as my parents, my brother and sister would talk to each other all the time.

That small village where I lived had no bus, train or a car, nothing at all in the village. If I wanted to go into the town, I would walk four miles. Later my father moved to another farm near the town called Southwell. it was better for me because it was nearer and easier for me to catch a bus or a train to Nottingham.

A bit later when I was 24 years old I went out to a field with my dog. My dog stared at the long grass, rocking its head sideways as if puzzled. So I bent down and opened up the long grass with my hands to see what it was. There I found a small cub so I picked it up and took it home. I put it in a good sized box I used for rubbish. Then next morning I had breakfast with my Mother, Father and others at the table. My Father's face looked drained. I asked him what was wrong, he said it was my fault. I said, 'My fault?' 'yes, your fault!' he said, 'that cub. It's mother came and was yapping outside, making a lot of noise.' He then said, 'If it happens again, you must return it to the field. You must let it go.' 'No, no, I want to keep it.' I said so I did. It grew and grew to be beautiful.

Later on when I was about 26 years old I met my girl-friend at Nottingham Deaf Club party. She came from Sheffield, all that distance, I was wondering to myself how I would get there however I managed alright. I started courting her from June till we got

engaged on December 7th. then on February 12th. we got married at Sheffield and got a house belonging to my boss. I had moved to another job as my father had retired so I worked in the Nurseries. The house I rented from my boss was only across the road from my workplace so it was easy to pop across and back. I worked there for five years. During that time, we had two children before we moved to Loughborough and I had another job working indoors in a needle factory making for making women clothes and stockings but only the needles were made there to be send out all over the countries. I liked the job and I had worked there for 32 years.

Later I wanted an hearing aid so, first of all, I was given an old fashioned one, the one that was plugged into a socket. That was when I was 42 years of age. It wasn't very good but later I had a new small behind the ear hearing aid and it was much better. As time went on I found an improvement in picking up sounds that if I took it off, I could not comprehend any of the conversation. When I put it on, I could follow the conversation more easily. It was good and I was happy with that.

I went to Nottingham Deaf Club with my wife and to Derby Deaf Club twice. I am fine and happy with two grown-up children and they are both doing well. Our daughter is now a solicitor and our son a Tax Inspector so he knows all about my finances. He had to know, being on this job. I have to be patience! Both of them could sign, my son signs quietly while my daughter signs more fluently. We have been married for 52 years, we are both very happy all the time, still young at heart - talking and laughing together, teasing each other. It is better that way to keep us young.

I am always naughty on Mondays and Wednesdays. I go out to talk to hearing people every Monday morning till three o'clock in the afternoon and I go to the Deaf Club every Wednesday from 10.30pm to 11.30pm. There I can be naughty! These deaf women were nuisance when playing cards, there are 6 of us, 4 ladies and two men. These women always interrupt the game by talking in signs about the latest news or gossip, not concentrating on the game. To stop them talking I usually make it worse for them, teasing them and have a lot of laughs. They all looked young for their age. It is better to be cheerful. I feel happy to be with them but it's nice to go home where all is quiet, just me and my wife, watching programmes on T.V. So we both have been very happy in our lives.

GRETA HALLAM

Greta Emily Kitsull born 31.12.31, became deaf at 7 years old by meningitis and measles. Started Derby Deaf School Friargate, Derby in March 1942, it was war time - I was 11 years old when I started at Derby.

I was brought up by my grandparents in Staveley near Chesterfield, they at first put me in a hearing school hoping that I would be taught like all other hearing children, but soon realised their mistake I couldn't learn any thing because I could not hear a word the teacher was saying by that time I was 11 years old.

At Derby Deaf School I was picked up very quickly. I was no scholar but I excelled at all other ventures like sports! Hockey, netball and field sports but my school work suffered because of later entering into Derby School, I soon picked up. Most of my interests were history, scripture but failed at maths. Derby School days were the best days of my life. In 1947 I left school hoping to work as a cook but the firms around Chesterfield didn't want to know because I was deaf. I met and married Kenneth Hallam (courting in 1948-1951 July 21st. We got married I am now Greta Emily Hallam very proudly married to Ken for 48 years with two hearing sons Stephen 38 years and David 36 years.

GEORGE KENNETH HALLAM, born 16.1.28

George was born deaf by forceps at birth. At first he went to Grassmoor Infants School mixed with hearing children and started there at the age of 5 years. the teacher told his Mother they couldn't teach him as he was deaf. His father got a tutor to teach him at home but wasn't good enough. He started Derby School in 1936 age 8 years old during that time his Father began to worry. When the war started in 1939 they tried to emigrate to Canada with him, took him out of Derby School for one year, but when they heard German's were losing and couldn't get over to England, Mother and Father taught him at home. Derby School sent them school work after one year he went back to school. He excelled at woodwork by Mr. Walker and all sports (football) and field sports. He was head boy at 15 years old until he left school in 1943.

He started work in Byron Donkins as a pattern maker until he retired at 65 years old, on the same job all his life.



Barrie Steele at work on a boat

BARRIE STEELE

I was born in West Bridgford, Nottingham in 1930. I became deaf at the age of one and half years old through Meningitis. It also left me with one eye blind.

My parents were deeply worried as they knew nothing of deafness. Eventually they heard on radio about a deaf school in Derby.

At the age of four years old, I went to the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby in 1934. I enjoyed school years. I made several friends there. I loved sports, running, jumping, and swimming. I excelled at drawings, metal work and wood work. I was captain for a few years before I left school in 1946.

As a cabinet maker I earned 12/6 which equalled 75p now. I really enjoyed my job. over the years I had nine different jobs as a Cabinet maker, woodwork, shopfitter and building two boats for forty nine years. I built two boats for my boss for two years. I retired in 1995.

I met Evelyn Humphreys at the club. She was a girl of my dreams. She was born in 1935 in India. She and her family came over to England in 1947. She, too, is deaf. We married in 1954.

I learned to drive and passed first time. I have now been driving for thirty nine years. Evelyn and I loved to go out camping everywhere by caravan and tent. We joined the Deaf Caravan camping club nineteen years ago. We were with them since 1974 until 1993. We have been abroad to France, Spain, Switzerland and Italy with our caravan which we enjoyed very much. It was our way of life.

Evelyn and I bought a new mobile caravan at Filey for our retirement by the sea. We frequently go to Filey with friends from Spring to October.

We regularly go to '60s' club in Nottingham and Derby and meet several friends there we made over the years.

In my spare time I helped out my friends by making things for them like fitted wardrobes, wall units, mantelpieces, hanging baskets, book cases and Bible stands for the Church. I also do my own things like making doll's houses in various periods like Victorian, Georgian,

cottages or Edwardian. I have completed the shapes of animals in woods. I enjoyed doing these various jobs, different all the time. I do not know when to stop!



Barrie Steele “The finishing touch”





Barry Steele at work



Barry Steele on the right with his boss

WARD FAMILY

It started with my father Charles Ward who was born in Swanwick near Ripley in 1898. He lived on a farm with his father, step brother and step sister. He went to the Royal School for the Deaf in 1903; the Headmaster at the time was Dr. W. Roe. My father left school in 1914 to work on his father's farm.



**Father
Charles Ward**

**Mother
Lottie Matthews (Ward)**



Old time story

When Charles and his father went to the Deaf School it was twelve miles from his home they went by horse and cart. When the school holidays came, his father would collect him and halfway from home they would stop at the pub and Charles would have to stay with the horse and cart and his father would buy him a soft drink.

One day Charles took his horses to the field to plough. While ploughing, the two horses, he'd had for many years, fell into a big hole. It was about fifty feet deep from an old pit. He lost the two horses as they had to be shot. Charles was very upset, they were his greatest horses. They had won him first prize for ploughing at the Riddings Show. He also won at a show in Derby for the best bull and he was very proud when Queen Mary presented a large cup to Charles.

When Charles got married to Lottie, his father gave them a cottage worth one hundred pounds in 1930 as a wedding present.

Mother

Her name was Lottie Matthew's (Ward). She was born in 1898 at South Normanton, near Alfreton. She was born hearing and went deaf at the age of five from an illness. She went to the Royal School for the Deaf in 1903 and left in 1914. When Lottie left school, she had her own dressmaking business at home. She made plenty of wedding dresses and everyday wear. Lottie was married to Charles for twenty three years, she died in 1951 aged only fifty three years.

Step-Mother

Her name was Phyllis Frith (Ward) she was born deaf in 1909 in Lincoln, she also went to the Royal School for the Deaf in 1914. When she left school, she got a job at the Deaf School as a seamstress. She was married to Charles for twenty seven years and died in 1992 at the age of eighty three years.

Son

His name is John Ward. He was born in Swanwick at a cottage farm in 1933. He was born hearing and went deaf at the age of eighteen months from an illness called whooping cough. He also went to the

Royal School for the Deaf in 1938, the Headmaster at the time was Mr. C. Roe. The best time at school was when we had a break and we could play football, cricket and enjoyed plenty of talking. We also did some play acting, pretending to be film stars. John was very good at sport, football, cricket and swimming. Mr. C. Roe was the Headmaster from 1938 to 1948, then we had a new Headmaster Mr. J. B. Whittaker for the last six months I was there.



John Ward



Phyllis Firth

When I left school, I did woodwork and the wages were twenty five shillings per week and my mother gave me half a crown. I had nine jobs altogether. The last job I had was at Denby Pottery and was there for thirty one years.

My best friend at school was Arthur Cleaver. When we left school, we joined the YHA and the Cyclist Touring club for over five years. We travelled 8,323 miles during this period. I used to enjoy going to the Deaf Club every Saturday at Friar Gate, Derby. They had good sports programme there, such as football, cricket, billiards, snooker, darts, dominoes and whist.

In 1954 I met a new girl called Betty Williams from Nottingham, we were together for three years before we married. We have been married for forty two years and we have three daughters and seven grandchildren - they are all hearing and they can all sign.

I had to retire early from work because of a bad back problem.

Betty and I now enjoy our retirement, we join the over 60's where we play bingo and have great outings. We also have made some very good friends.



Wedding in 1957. Betty and John



Back Row: Mr. Carey Roe with party hat, holding the little boy, John Ward



1947 Sports Day. left to right: L. Bond, T. Shepherd, J. Ward, M. Taylor, unknown, R. Clarke



3rd from left, standing, Charles Ward, John's father



Phyllis Frith on nearside with a white beret and glasses

ERIC LEWIS

Being deaf at the age of five years old - I lost my mother when I was three months old and my father left me. My mother's sister adopted me and brought me up. I also lived with my grandmother and grandfather.

I went to a hearing school at St. Johns School, Ripley at the age of five. I ran away from the school and went home. Probably the reason I ran away was - I was feeling frustrated, mixing with the hearing children and the teacher paid no attention to me. I really didn't understand what I was doing in school.

Eventually, my grandfather took me to the Royal School for Deaf, Friar Gate Derby at the age of seven. In 1937/8 I met the Headmaster, Mr. Roe , and went into a classroom. My teacher was Miss. Jarram. I did not feel that I had missed my parents and I thought I was starting a new life with so many children. I soon learned sign language very quickly and made some good friends. The education I received was to my satisfaction. I liked doing sports, especially the Annual Sports Day such as running in the 100 yards and the hurdles. I was a very slim boy then. I also enjoyed playing rounders.



Eric Lewis, on the right. with John Ward

I remember that, during the war, the boys and I slept in the dormitory when the air-raid siren went off, the boys and I scrambled down the stairs under the building which was supported by steel girders and steel poles. When it was all clear, we went back to bed. Some time later, the siren went off again and we had to stay in the basement until the following morning before breakfast. We all slept on the cold, stone floor, maybe one or two shared blankets to cover us. The food ration had a slight effect, but my grandfather brought me luxury items such as a jar of jam, Bovril, chocolate etc which were difficult to obtain.

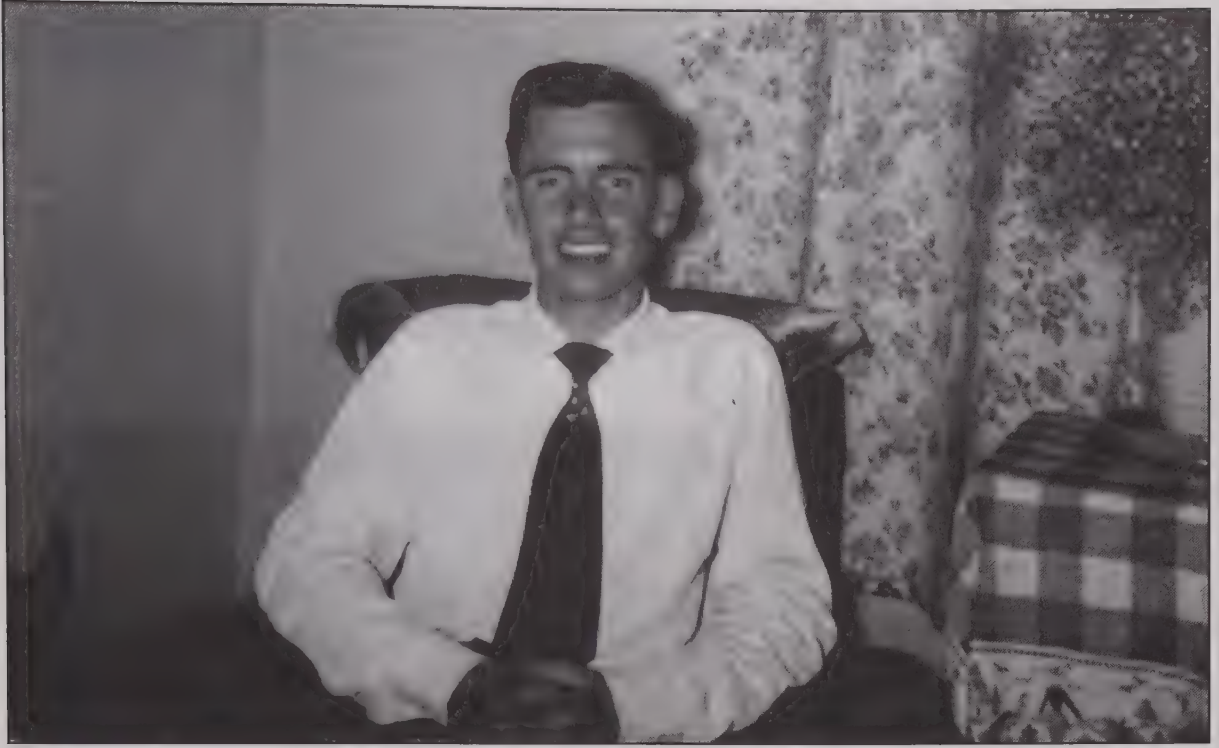
After the war, many things were back to normal e.g. the trip to Skegness by train, a especially laid out carriage that went non-stop to and from Skegness and Derby.

When I was 13-14 years old, I became very ill with scarlet fever. I was admitted into the school hospital, then I was transferred to the isolation ward at Derwent Hospital with several boys and girls. I had so many injections whilst in hospital - Mr. Whittaker visited us several times.

I was taught to learn the trade in wood-work and shoe-repairing. I left school at the age of sixteen and started as a shoe repairer but I didn't like the job so I went to work at 'Ogle' at Ripley, a farm machinery implements firm, for about three years. Then I worked at the local bakery until it burnt down. My neighbour got me a job at Denby Pottery and I stayed there until I retired after forty-three years.

After working there for forty years, the firm presented me with a bathroom suite. When I retired, the firm presented me with a dining suite and a nest of coffee tables. I have always enjoyed working with the staff there. I am now happily retired. I married Mary Brown at Chaddesden near Derby and had a son and a daughter. Mary and I celebrated our marriage of over thirty years last April and we had a grand party. We also have two grand children. We were and still are very close to each other and with very much love for one another.

Mary and I go to Derby Deaf Over 60's Club every fortnight to play Bingo; go on outings four times a year and an annual Christmas dinner at various restaurants. Mary and I are involved in the committee work, also in organising the Spring Fayre and the Autumn Bazaar. Mary and I love to be among the deaf friendly people.







1950



Eric Lewis on the right



Left to right: Derek Walters,
Billy Stokes, Alan Walters



Both pictures
taken at the
Roe Memorial House,
Friar Gate









Back standing: Patrick MacGrath
Front left to right: Eric Lewis, Derek and Alan Walters



1954 Party



Boys at work

ALAN WARBURTON

Memories of My days at School

I started at the Old National Institute for the Deaf and Dumb in February, 1947, this was one of the worst for snow. I will remember the older boys going to Darley Park - sledging, having made the sledges themselves in the wood-work and metal-work classes. We were waist high in snow in some places!

My first impression of the Institute was the double doors opening up to a grand marbled hall and very fine staircase with its wrought iron sides, then into the Principal's office with its walls covered with portraits of Alderman and former Principals.

Mr. Jack Whittaker, then the Principal, introduced himself. Afterwards I was admitted and led away to be kitted out with regulated school gear of grey flannelette shirts that itched, grey shorts, two pairs of shoes and a pair of sandals, also a navy blue raincoat. I was then given a number which was number 39, and was shown the boys' day room with a case rack on which to put my case.

I soon found out through my mentor, Alan Loveday, that I had chores to do - such as making my own bed and dusting as well as spending the evenings in the basement cleaning shoes which had to be put out for inspection. How many times did one go back after inspection to be faced with of shoes in the middle of the shoe-room to be re-cleaned and re-inspected. Many times the younger ones were bribed into cleaning older boys' shoes in exchange for their being nice to them.

Other evenings were spent on 'spud' bashing, peas shelling, etc. In the kitchen, some cheated by using a potato peeling machine in the girls' yard to get the job done quicker.

As well as the kitchen staff, we had the sewing room staff to answer to - Mrs. Stone with her iron leg supports; Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Rowbotham who oversaw the dining room and kept a stern eye, watching over our manners with duty staff sitting between the boys and girls, expecting one of us to wait on them.

There were Albert Potts and Mr. Gibson, the caretakers who looked after the boiler and generally could be relied on to tell some tales of days past.

One of the supervisors, Mr. Wilkins who woke us, sleeping souls, with a crack of his walking stick on each beds as he passed through the dormitories. If you didn't get up by the time he returned, he would tip the whole bed over, making it more work for you to remake the bed. I remember how dirty beddings were carted off to the top of four flights of a staircase to the laundry store.

For hygiene, I recall Misses Brown and Stone with their ritual of blowing smoke off a coal placed on a dustpan as the children walked past them in the day room. This was to disinfect them against germs. To make sure there are no head nits, their hairs were combed over a soup dish.

Everybody enjoyed the monthly fire drill when one threw the escape chute out of the window, then our shoes tied together followed by ourselves with arms above our heads as though we were diving, the dark slide down to the bottom where below four people were holding the chute to stop you hitting the wall. It became a fun trip! But if you were with the infants you had an open chute with bars across the front to enable the infants to see the light but if you didn't turn your face sideways, you were sure to hit your nose on the rungs as you slid down.

The film shows by Mr. Walbank were looked forward to, providing you hadn't got more than five marks for some misdemeanour you were allowed in but more than that you didn't go and instead were given some odd jobs such as sweeping the playground. Before the films could start, about twenty boys would have to carry the chairs from the dining room to the boys' gym. The chair backs had to be carried facing away from the carrier to else you would be in trouble.

Mr. Wood and His Boot and Shoe Repair shop in the boys playground next to the garage was where boys were taught how to repair shoes. He was a strict disciplinarian with a tough hand in his dealing with boys especially in his role as a P.T. instructor. He would make you go over the wooden horse through the hoops and over a pile of other boys laying on top of each other on the horse. Should you be nervous of the trapeze rings hanging from the roof in the boys' gym you would get a belting with one of his specially made leather belts he fashioned in his boot shop.

Mr. Whittaker as did Mr. Roe before him kept his car in a large garage. At the time I was there (1947-51) it was an antiquated Daimler, then



The fire drill



The Pavillion before the accident



a standard 14 and finally a white sports car. One day we had a clear-out and found an old pram, a Victorian one and we had a few hours of fun, giving rides at full speed round the yard.

When you got depressed or upset, there was a wall at the back of the new school building to climb up, and up the bank at the Friargate L.N.E.R. Station to sneak into a carriage, and away it went with you not thinking you needed a ticket to travel legally. You hid under a seat until you were found by the guard and locked in his van until the next stop and there handed over by the scruff of the neck to the Station Master who 'got on his blower' to the Principal to ask him to come and collect you.

We all had to line up in order - from the tallest to the smallest of boys. If wet, it was in the gym - it was toes to the joints of the floorboards to keep the lines straight, to await, maybe half an hour, for Mr. Whittaker to appear. He then asked who the clever boy was who ran away to step out and receive his beating.

I will remember how I complained to being frozen during lessons only to be sent walking up Ashbourne Road to the Sports field with three other. The field now accommodated the Derby College for Deaf People. After walking there and feeling more cold in our shorts, we were put to work tree-felling by the groundsman, Mr. Latham.

This tree was in fact 30-40 feet tall and the four of us had to use a band saw, two of us at each end. Mr. Latham decided to tie a rope half way up the tree and chopped a chunk out as we progressed. It must have been 4 or 5 feet wide in diameter. Suddenly we noticed the wind was rocking the tree. We told Mr. Latham that it was going the wrong way but we were told to shut up while he pulled the rope so we did. The wind got stronger and changed direction, to our horror and Mr. Latham's anger, it fell straight onto the brick and tile pavilion, crashing through its roof.

After we had to cut the tree from the top to the bottom, equally spaced for the Principal's fires. It took us about two months and the pavilion had to be repaired in time for the Sports Day. In preparation for this special day, the grass was mowed and then rolled by 10 boys pulling a large horse-roller up and down the field. On Sports Day, everyone had to take part in the events - be it a mile, the half-mile, the high jump, hurdles, sack races, etc. It took two weeks to get ready for this event. If you were helping with the field work you

might be lucky to drive the 'ride on' Acto or Dennis mower. Some of the teaching staff spring to mind as does Mr. Bleeby, Mr. Blight, Walbank, Marston, Stevenson, Evans, Williams, O'Freemantle, and Mr. Coleman, also Mr. Woods P.E. Instructor. Such was a regime of Mr. Cessford, the painter, and Mr. Dorman, maintenance that Mr. Coleman couldn't stand seeing such a regime, he left. he was a brilliant sports coach even though he was young and just out of training college.

Tough days they were but a little harm if you took no notice. It brought me out of my shell and set me up to deal with the next stage of life, the main part in the real world as a fifteen year old apprentice at Rolls Royce. Mr. Kelly, the Welfare Officer at Roe house for Deaf Adults, helped me to obtain this employment as the first deaf person to be allowed to operate a machinery. In which I received a lot of hassle from fellow workers at the early stages, it taught me to keep calm and ignore it - I even got my voice back with their help and have clocked up 47 years of working on machinery.

Through many changing times, hopefully I have helped a few other deaf people through awkward times with their work mates, so maybe those hard times stood me in a good stead and I know some work mates changed their views on the deaf world through being involved with me, and hopefully I can put something back into Two-Can, the learning Centre for Deaf people, has created.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1895 Directory of Derby R.I.D. was called:-

The Midland Deaf and Dumb Institute
88, Friar Gate
Derby

The Principals were Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Roe.

In the 1921 Directory is an advertisement:-

Royal Institute for the Deaf and Dumb.

Patron His Majesty the King.

Accommodation for 200 children and staff. The expenditure yearly was said to be £13,000 supplied by voluntary subscriptions and fees. Could be visited from 10.00am to 12.00 (noon) and 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Wednesdays - Saturdays and Sundays excepted.

The Principal was W. Carey Roe and the Matron, Mrs. Roe. In 1935 there was a Derby Deaf and Dumb Mission at 28-30 Curzon Street. Was this the first school or a club or a church? Interesting!

How many people knew that a carving in stone on the roof above the front doors was made by a deaf stonemason?

ALAN WALTERS

I was born at home in Ripley in 1941. My mother's name was Lily. She worked at home. My father's name was Bernard. He worked for a bus company called the Midland General. My brother is called Derek. He has a wife called Mary. He was born in 1939, also at home.

I attended Royal School for the Deaf, Friar Gate, Derby, starting there in 1947. My teachers were strict, but I had two favourites, Mrs. Buxton and Mr. Evans.

Sports Day

I won the three-legged race and I enjoyed running in School Sports Day. I wore a jacket - red, blue and green were the school uniform colours, mine with the number 88 on it and a cap, and a bag also with the number 88 on. I enjoyed running the relay. There were three lanes, we would run around and pass the baton onto the next person. I would try and jump the high jump, but I couldn't do it. I also had a go at the long jump which I liked but wasn't always successful.

I enjoyed tackling the hurdles but not always jumping them well. I tried Javelin but I didn't like it that much. I enjoyed going through the tunnel on the assault course. The head teacher at the time was Mr. Whittaker. The school was a boarding school, but I would go home every weekend.

I liked sleeping at school and my brother also slept there. I think he liked it too. One sleeping room would hold so many people. Boys and girls slept separately. At school I enjoyed English, woodwork, art, writing, running and eating food like cabbage. I didn't like Geography or jumping though.

I left school in December 1957. I started work on 31st. December 1957. My job was a brush maker, at a horse hair factory. I would start work at 7.30a.m. and finish at 5.15p.m. My lunch break was from 12.00 noon until 1.00 where I would go home for lunch because it wasn't far away from the place I worked. I would have a hot dinner and my mother would cook for me and my brother. My tea breaks were in the morning and afternoon we were allowed 15 minutes for both. I like my job and the pay is good. I worked at the horse hair factory from 1957 to 1968. I liked doing house and garden work and watching T.V. I like watching wrestling and football.

I was a Deaf Club member at Derby, Friar Gate but I am now a Deaf Club member at the Rycote Centre. I have many deaf friends both from school and the Deaf Club. My holidays would be spent in Blackpool. I have enjoyed my life.



My family at Derby Deaf School Sports Day, 1952
Left to right: Mother, Derek, Grandma, Alan, Father



Boy's playground

BRYAN HILL

It all started when my Mum was pregnant with me and about 5 weeks before I was due to be born the doctor said that either me or my Mum would die during childbirth as there were complications. Then 5 weeks later I was born, a lovely baby boy, but my Mum died. Dad was in the war so I never saw him. My Grandma took care of me and I went to Derby Deaf School, Friargate, Derby when I was about 3 or 4 years old. I was put on the girls side as the boys were too rough until the end of the world war 2 then I was put in with the boys. I stayed at school throughout the year even through Easter, summer and Christmas. There was nothing to do and all I did was walk around the girls and boys playground. I was told that my family didn't want me because 'I was deaf and dumb', those exact words I remember being told.

Then when I was about 9 years old one of the social workers for the deaf, Mr. Kelly saw me in the gym sitting around doing nothing. He obviously felt sorry for me, so he took me to Wales. I stayed at Mr. Kelly's cousins farm with their family, which I thoroughly enjoyed, but it was hard work as we had to get up 6 am every morning and we ate food that was fresh not like at school.

In the deaf school every morning we had to get up at 6.30 am and we had to sweep the dormitory floor which was massive and a lot to do for a little lad. then we would go down to prepare breakfast for 220 boys and girls, it would mostly be lumpy porridge that looked like it wasn't cooked properly or we would have rotten eggs with stale bread, also they would give us sour milk where some of us boys would hold our noses when drinking it as teachers watched us and we got the stick if we didn't drink it. A lot of boys pretended that they were tough and just swallow the sour milk in one go, it was absolutely disgusting. After breakfast we would go to the old school for morning prayers then we would go to classes, where I learnt nothing and if I was naughty you weren't allowed to go to the pictures, also if you had more than 5 marks you would be sent to your dormitory. You would get one mark for everytime you were naughty or if you answered a teacher back. Also you could be punished by being given the cane and you got between 5 and 10 wallops, of which I received several times during my time at school.

We would then go to dinner which would mainly consist of cabbage which contained a lot of creepy crawlies such as caterpillars and it

would also not be cooked properly. At tea time we would be given 2 very thin slices of bread with a very small amount of butter in the middle of one slice of bread then one teaspoon of jam on the other slice of bread, we were also given 1 or 2 cups of tea. Then at supper time we were given the bread that was left over from teatime, which was very hard it was like eating a concrete block as they didn't cover the food at all. At any meal time if anyone made any noise during a meal time they were made to stand outside and face the brick wall for 2 and sometime 3 hours, and longer if you moved. Also you weren't allowed to go to the toilet while you were stood against the wall so a lot of the time we wet ourselves which was degrading in itself.

When we were naughty we were punished by being taken to the coke house and we had to go a wheel barrow and fetch the coke for the boiler house and it took about one and half to two hours to do. When I was older I was not given the chance to go to a better school - a lot of the boys were, the reason was because my family could not afford to pay for transport to and from the better school during the holidays. So I stayed at Derby Deaf School until I was 16 years old. Which I didn't like as a lot of the teachers abused me, a lot of them would beat me up as they knew I had no parents to tell and I ran away quite a few times from school and most of the time I was depressed and frustrated.

When I left school my new social worker Mr. Leask asked me what I wanted to do as a career and I said I wanted to be a policeman but he said I couldn't as I was deaf so I got a job as a groundsman and greenkeeper.

When I left school I joined the deaf club at Derby where I joined a few activities, such as table tennis, snooker, billiards, darts, dominoes. But my football was my life and I have won many trophies through my life and when I retired I became a manager and coach and did this for many years. I finished due to having an eye operation.

ROBERT JONES

I don't know how I became deaf or at what age I became deaf. I went to a hearing school, my mother and my doctor learned that I had congenital deafness, but I have vivid memories from when I went to the nursery school, I was hearing then. I was born in Hill Street, Burton-on-Trent and moved to Newton Road, Burton-on-Trent, a house with six bedrooms with my seven brothers and two sisters.

Then I went to Derby Deaf School in Friar Gate, Derby in 1946 at the age of 6. I did enjoy the teaching in the early stages but the senior boys bullied me at times.

When I went home for my summer or winter holiday, my sister said to me that we used to live at Hill Street and saw the house which was already destroyed through war-time bombing. So I think me and my family were lucky that we had moved.

At the age of 11-12 I started to learn to swim at Queen Street. I had a swimming certificate, played football and cricket.

At the age of nearly 15, I did the maintenance work at school such as painting, repair woodwork, stoking up the boiler with fuel (coke). When the exams were due, I went back into the classroom but I could not do the paperwork. The teacher abused me so I ran away from school and went home. I told my mother and father of what had happened. My mother found me a job at the farm at Newton Solney, I enjoyed working at the yard and in the field. The police called at the farm, the farmer told me to leave, and I went back home. Some time later, I believe, an Education Inspector called at my house and talked to my mother and said that I must return to school. I was provoking the Inspector and I knocked him down. Sometime later I was taken to court with my father and there was Mr. Whittaker the headmaster and Mr. Marston, a teacher, who acted as an interpreter.

I explained the situation of abusing towards me and then I went back to school, but the teacher was still abusing the children. I did some fighting with the teachers and warned the headmaster. When I went home for my holiday, I told my father about it. At the time of writing about the abusing and the court, and when I was in court there were no official freelance interpreters to prove my innocence -which was no fault of mine.

I left school in July 1956 my mother found me a job as a metal worker at Burton-on-Trent for about a year I worked at Ind-Coope Brewery, earning good wages. Then I became redundant. I worked as a builder then I was transferred to Ascot in London lodging with my sister and, again, became redundant. I worked in various jobs. Then I went back to Burton-on-Trent to work in the former building trade and so on, I became a crane and digger driver for 17 years. The firm closed down. I went to live in Derby and worked at Qualcast as an assembler for 17 years until the Qualcast closed down.

I got married to Francis in 1974. Francis did work at Royal Crown China and then moved to Qualcast. We had our first son in 1977 and a daughter in 1980.

I played football for Roe Memorial Adult Deaf Club at Friar Gate for a number of years, I was also in the M.D.S.A. league. I became interested in becoming a football referee so I trained at Heanor for 8 weeks and I became qualified. I had a slight problem with the F.A. but I soon sorted it out with the help of social staff and I continued to referee for 12 years. I have many trophies, medallions, cups and certificates. I enjoyed my activities in sport and I feel very proud of myself.



Left to right:
Michael Felton, Robert Jones with shield, Ernest Chadwick

Tramps at play
Left: Alan Loveday
Right: Dennis Booth



At the fair:
Robert Jones and
Kathleen Chadwick





Left to right: Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Kelly



George Hardy and his wife

Robert Jones
on top left





Peta Laundry
Derby School
Sports Champion





The Derby Deaf Football Club 1980





School Field Sports day





SchoolField Sports Day



Top left: Francis







Holiday at New Brighton





Keep Fit Class 1959







Artist at Work





Top left: Francis







Holiday at New Brighton





Keep Fit Class 1959







Artist at Work



PAULINE LEONARD

What I remember best

At age of between 5 and 7 years, I remembered well the dormitory I was in. The room was dismal and the floorboards were of bare wood and very rough. We could splinter our feet if we are not careful as we had no slippers to speak of. Each window had a dark navy wartime blind to shut in the light.

This oblong room had a door in the middle, with a little window next to it through where a teacher or a supervisor on duty can check upon us. We did not have the luxury of a wardrobe, a dressing table or even a chest of drawers. Our clothes were neatly folded up and placed in large wick-baskets we had under our beds, as ordered. The beds were of cast-iron and had wheels that we could move them whilst sweeping up the dormitory as a part of our daily work route.

We were not allowed to go out of the dormitory, even to go to the toilets, once we were in bed. There were two potties available for us to use in the middle of the room between the opposite beds, one on each side of the door. It was more like an hospital ward.

At odd times, we needed to go out to the toilets to move our bowels or when the potties were full. We had to risk the cane if caught. One day I got caught and was caned the following morning and placed in a corner for a long time that I passed out. I woke up with a nasty bump on my head, having banged it against the red slanted-tiled floor.

Acorn Family

I fondly remembered how we compensate for not having dolls to play with at school as they were not allowed. Each Sunday we would go for walks in pairs with a teacher at each end. Whenever we could we would pick up spent match sticks from the pavement and once we were in the school field down in Ashbourne Road where there were oak trees. we would be busy collecting acorns, some with its 'cap' attached.

Back in school, we, the girls, would sort out the acorns - the large ones for bodies and little ones for heads. Match sticks were stuck into the 'body' for arms and legs and the head to the 'body'. We then used what we had collected - pretty colourful silver papers or transparent papers for clothes. We were very creative and had many happy hours with these acorn families.



Left to right
Ava and Pauline
Berrisford 1949



Mrs. Boraston's Class 1950
First top left: Eva Berrisford



Mum with Grandson , Dad, Derek, and Dorothy with young Jennifer

THE BERRISFORD FAMILY

It was in 1945. At the age of five years, when I was admitted to the Royal School for the Deaf, Friar Gate, Derby - along with my eldest sister, Eva (now Mrs. Buckett), who was nineteen months older than me. She had been taken out of the Mount School for the Deaf, Stoke-on-Trent. I remember how Eva attracted a lot of attention because she could sign.

We were moved from Cheddleston, near Leek to Cheadle for an easy route to Derby by bus with our mum. Later in the year, another sister, Dorothy (now Mrs. Phillips) joined us in 1952, then six months later I left for Mary Hare Grammar School, Newbury at the age of 13 years. In the same year, Eva left at Christmas, leaving Dorothy on her own. It was 1956 when Derek was admitted to the school and he was only four, he cried so much that Steven Carter took him under his wings, giving him some toys to play with until he settled down. Jennifer (now Mrs. Brown), the youngest, joined the Deaf Nursery Unit when she was three in April, 1964. We were all born deaf of hearing parents so Eva was the role model for signing.

Eva's teachers were: Mrs. Buxton who was a swimming champion in her younger times and adorable Mrs. Style who also taught us Country dances and Maypole dances. She had organised such displays on Sports Days. I remembered how I was dressed up like a fairy, in white tutu made of stiff netting with floral head-dress and two sticks joined by a row of flowers. This can be seen in one of the school's films. Eva did a lot of Maypole dancing and also square dancing. We were natural dancers and still love dancing be it country, ballroom, Be-Bop or rock and roll



Square dancing on the lawn



My first teacher was Miss. Taylor who was very kind. My class included as in order of the photo above: Mary Mitchell, Maureen Brown (now Ellis), myself sitting next to Miss. Taylor on the left, Stanley Meacham, Norma Dorling (now Farnsworth), Glenys Walker (now Llewellyn); from bottom right: Malcolm Tabener, David Kettle, Derek Walters, Mary Hallett and Marjorie Cox.



Both Dorothy and Derek were one of the first Deaf people to go to local colleges in Derby. In 1963 Dorothy qualified as a Dress Designer with City and Guilds 'Dress' which included Design and Pattern-Grading, 1st. Class Pass and Derek in Technical Engineering. Derek was awarded for the best student of the year.

Dorothy gained employment as a junior designer with Lux-Lux, a lingerie firm at Leek and her designs in nighties were accepted by Dorothy Perkins and Littlewoods. Presently Dorothy is a Dress Designer at Crewe.

But with Derek, he could not find a suitable job. His plight was highlighted in the Staffordshire's Evening Sentinel. Rolls Royce personnel saw this article and was invited to an interview - with support from Mr Walbank. He was then offered an apprenticeship in the engineering department at Derby.

At the age of 16 years, he was unsure and afraid. We, two elder sisters, and his parents persuaded him to take this chance of a good job though it meant living in Derby midweek. He finally accepted this offer and had not looked back since. He had stayed in boarding houses and was, at the end, cared for by an elderly couple. Some years later he met and married Sandra. They lived, with three children, in Chaddesden then moved to Spondon, which is close to Shardlow where our great-grandfather, Joseph Gilbert, P.G. (of Gilbert Bros. Boat Builders) was born in 1783. Sandra teaches British Sign Language with Two-Can, Derby City and County Community Education Services.

Eva became a cake-decorator and had made a lot of wedding cakes, birthday cakes etc. until she retired two years ago. So we have a cake decorator and wedding dress-designer in the family that their skills were used for Jennifer's wedding and our children's weddings and other special events.

I, Pauline, left Mary Hare with 5 'O' levels in GCE and was first employed by the Midlands Electricity Board as IBM Punch Card Operator in which I found boring that I had requested for a transfer and was placed in the Customers Accounts Department where I enjoyed the work till I left to have my second child. Since then I have worked as Accounts clerk, P.A.Y.E. clerk, Invoice and Costing clerk, a Recataloguing clerk in Staffs University library where I learnt more about art and social history; and after being made redundant,

a short term project worker with Breakthrough Trust at Greenwich, near London where I learnt from Jeff McWhinney (now BDA Chief Executive) and Diane Whitehall about teaching Deaf Awareness and British Sign Language in 1982/83.

After some training I became a part-time BSL tutor for 15 years, now retired and in 1989 I gained a full time employment as Tutor /Organiser with Two-Can Resources Unit, under Derbyshire Community Education until the restructure of Derbyshire boundaries. I am now employed under Derby City Community Education as Core Skills Manager for Deaf People with lead role in Guidance and Access citywide. I felt great! A deaf person like me in this job. I have really enjoyed working with this unique Two-Can Team at the Rycote Centre in the past ten years though I have to travel daily from Newcastle-under-Lyme in Staffs. where I live.

When I first started at Two-Can I found that Derby City had changed a lot with some old buildings demolished and new bypasses built. It took me six months before I knew my way around the city! I consider Derby City, a good role model for equal opportunities as I am treated as an equal to my hearing partners at work.

Finally our youngest sister, Jennifer who went to both of the schools at Friar Gate and the RSD, Ashbourne Road. She saw the transformation of conditions and service (*see her article in this book*) and regretted the loss of a sports field. She left RSD with City & Guilds qualifications in Catering, Health & Hygiene and Nutrition and gained employment with the City General as Nurses Home Assistant Cook and then promoted to Cook until she bore two boys, Robert who is profoundly deaf and Phillip, partially deaf. She is now a team-leader BSL Lecturer at Stoke-on-Trent College.

Presently we are looking at our 'generations of deafness' as it has come to light that there are two Gilbert brothers living in Derbyshire - David and Malcolm and we wondered if they are our distance relatives in line with our great grandfather, Joseph Gilbert of Shardlow. We will have to wait and see.

Deaf youth's college achievement makes local history

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy made history at Derby College of Further Education on Saturday when he became the first totally deaf student to win a major prize.

Derek Berrisford, whose home is at Cheadle, Staffs, was the first boy to be seconded from the Royal School for the Deaf, Derby, to the college's apprentice training school course, in which students are taught basic engineering skills.

He received one of two Central Electricity Generating Board prizes, at a prize distribution for workshop training course students of the college's Mechanical Engineering Department.

Mr. Angus Walbank, senior master of the Royal School for the Deaf, was there to see Derek receive his prize from Mr. E. Bown, former chairman of Be'per Rural Council, who helped develop the course in the early days when it was connected with Rolls-Royce Ltd.

AN ACHIEVEMENT

Derek was the only student without previous industrial experience, and is the only boy who is not yet placed.

His success was described as "quite an achievement" by Mr. B. M. Watson, Deputy Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, who welcomed Mr. Bown.

Prizes for the Engineering Industry Training Board's 48-week course were presented by Mr. J. Leather, Principal of the college, who said those who

acquitted themselves well stood a good chance of rising to senior positions in the companies to which their abilities took them.

GOOD CO-OPERATION

He also spoke of the remarkable sense of co-operation which existed between the college and the employers.

Mr. Leather and Mr. Bown were thanked by Mr. T. Hood, training manager at International Combustion Ltd.

Also present were Mr. J. Hall, vice-principal; Mr. E. Wilkinson, Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department; Mr. G. F. Barber, Workshop Supervisor, and Mr. P. H. Metzner, who recently retired as workshop supervisor.

PRIZE LIST

Apprentice Training School Central Electricity Generating Board prizes: L. J. Leonard (Central Electricity Generating Board), D. Berrisford (Royal School for the Deaf).

Rolls-Royce prize: M. J. Doughty (C.E.G.B.).

International Combustion prize: L. M. Woolley (Afton and Co. Ltd.).

East Midlands Electricity Board prize: J. E. S. Alfred (Fletcher and Stewart Ltd.).



Derby Deaf School Sports
1952 Champions: Neville Walker and Joyce Dean



At Skegness: Mrs. Boraston's class. First right: Eva Berrisford



**The Berrisford family, Standing: Derek, Dorothy, Jim (hearing), Pauline
Sitting: Eva, Mum, Jennifer**



Northern College Weekend, Barnsley: pauline with Two-Can students



1991

Northern College Weekend, Barnsley: Pauline with Two-Can students



1992

JENNIFER BROWN (NOW BERRISFORD)

How the School Changed

I was at the Royal School for the Deaf, Friar Gate, Derby from 1964 to 1972 before moving into the new school at Ashbourne Road where I stayed until 1977. From 1977 to 1979, I resided at the RSD while attending Burton College for my City & Guilds Catering qualifications. I had to travel to and fro from Derby during the week and go home to Cheadle each weekend. As I have been to both schools, I would like to write about the differences between those schools and what changes there were.

Food

At Friar Gate, dinners were served out of a large deep tin with a ladle by a prefect or a supervisor sitting at the end of a long table. At the new school, the dining room resembled a restaurant where one carries a tray, queuing up by the counter, our plates served with food of our choice. We sat at circular tables littered around the dining room floor, just like a restaurant - nothing like the old days of forcing us to eat whatever was given.

Each Wednesday we would have a special menu of our own choice. Some weeks before, the kitchen staff would go round asking us what we would like for dinner e.g. curry and rice, etc. and then one of these choices would be served on a Wednesday afternoon - an enjoyable treat!

For supper, at the old school, we used to have lovely condensed milk sandwiches but we did not have them at the new school.

Clothes

At Friar Gate, the school provided all the clothing from underwear to outer wear including footwear and the towels. We wore uniforms during the school day and 'play clothes', as they are called, after school. I remember how we had to grab for the best dresses we could find from the pile to wear. Some were unfortunate to have the scruffy ones. Some clothes could be rough and itchy. We all each had a number and had numbered hangers and labels.

At the new school, the uniform was of a dress, cardigan, jacket and a short tie. We wore our own shoes, socks and underwear. We also had our own night-wear and clothes for after school use, as well as the towels. Numbers were discarded and we had our own names on hangers or labels.

The Bathroom

At Friar Gate school had a large bathroom with support poles in the basement, where there were doors at each end, on the boys' side and on the girls' side. The girls and boys had to share this bathroom with times arranged. The girls hated Wednesdays because it was when the boys played football. They regularly left the bathroom dirty for the girls to use!

At the new school, they now have separate bathrooms with better facilities, including showers, which is much better.

School Work

We did not have any homework at the old school but I am not sure about the older pupils having homework there. At the RSD, Ashbourne Road, we had homework from 4.00pm to suppertime when we had milk and biscuits and had to return for some more home work! The younger ones had to do an extra half hour homework and the older ones an extra hour after supper. There was one teacher supervising.

In class, the teaching of subjects was done by one or two teachers in each class at the old school but we had a different teacher for each subject at the new school.

Drama

The school, old and new, had always been keen on drama as part of the school curriculum, but I was more involved with the new school, travelling around giving shows at many towns including Derby.

Environment

The old school was rather grim, in black or grey colours. Apart from the rear garden, most of it's grounds were covered with tarmac with a couple of small square lawns.

The new school is much more attractive with profuse greenery and flora. There's a water fountain by the reception/entrance, all pleasant to view, nothing like the old school.

Sports /Open Day

For many years we had an Annual School Sports Day on a Saturday at the Ashbourne Road playing fields. During these events, we were keen to win prizes of books, pens or toys. These memorable events were also looked upon as Old Pupils' Reunions because many all

old school colleagues came to greet each other. Parents and families also came. When we moved to the new school, we no longer had a sports day which was sadly missed. However Markeaton Park is now where Deaf children love to go, especially in warm weather.

We had roller-skating, Duke of Edinburgh Awards activities, Guides, Brownies, Army cadets with a lot of evening activities - Youth Club, Disco, etc.

The new school still has Open Days for parents or carers as were held annually at the old school.

Fire Drill

We always had fire drills but at the old school they took place during the day when we had to go outside and at night at the new school. The matron would arouse us, sleepy-heads, and make us go to the Sports for a number check. We got teased about our state of dress and out of place hair.

Prefects

I am not sure about the old school but at the new school the prefects had their own room where they could make drinks and relax.

Weekends and Hair check

At the old school we all had to stay at school seven days a week, even if some of the children's homes were nearby! When we returned to school after the holidays, each child had to have his or her hair checked for nits, a slow process with a fine, steel comb and a basin.

At the new school, no one was allowed to stay for the weekend and the staff did not bother to inspect each child for hair nits - what a contrast!

The Hospital and the Move

The school hospital, situated by the girls gym, was used for accommodating sick children. It was used for many years until the building of the new school was in progress. In order to prepare the children for the move, this building was converted to a school for the Juniors, separating the boys from the girls.

I found that the move to Ashbourne Road School had made a difference. I almost knew everyone at the old school - each child,

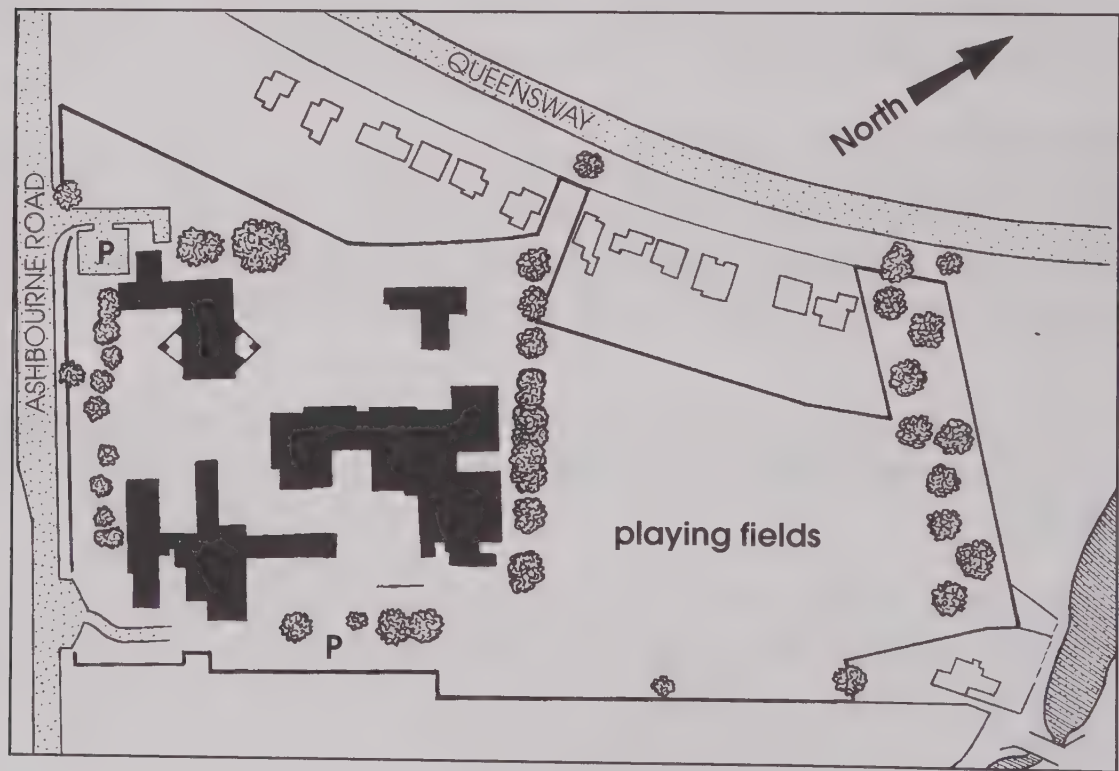
teacher and member of staff but at the new school, the units were built separately in the grounds (see illustration) that I did not know most of the children or the teachers in the primary or junior sections. I had links only with those in the 11-16 Secondary Block and the College Students House.

When I left school, I met some deaf people from Derby Deaf school and our age-range was close but we did not know each other.

Minicom

I remembered how we had no minicom at the Ashbourne Road until the Breakthrough Trust came with a huge teleprinter, set up by Mr. King. We were thrilled to use it for the first time, typing away on this big machine! Then the 'minicom' got smaller and smaller, e.g. QWERTY, Supertel, compact, etc.

In conclusion, the move to the new school at Ashbourne Road has outweighed the advantages over the old school but not in sports. I have enjoyed and benefited from the new school.



- Key:** A Further Education Hostel
B Nursery Unit with Hearing Clinic
C Primary & Secondary Residential Accommodation
D Primary & Secondary School with Craft Block

**My first year at the old school.
1964. Taken by my sister, Dorothy**



At the new school

**Left to right: With good friends:
Shirley Plunkett, Helen Mart,
Jennifer Berrisford, Joanne Perkins**

**A visit to London, part of our
project on the history of London.
we stayed with the Breakthrough
trust 1973/4. Group with terry
Waters of B. Trust**



6. NATIVITY PLAY

by the Junior Department

Mary: Jennifer Berrisford

Joseph: Johnny Clark

Innkeeper: Craig Essex

Women of Helen Mart

Bethlehem Dawna Szabo

Men of Andrew Seed

Bethlehem: Dale Brown
Donald Hemans

Kings: Dabinder Dhillon
Dennis Forte
Vaughan Rossiter

Children: Fatima Aslam
Janet Barnes
Stephen England
Susanna Jeffery
Sharon Johnson
Caroline Lynch
Clifton Malcolm
June Mann
Sally Warhurst
David Williams

Angels: Robert Brooks
Ellen Cambridge
Helen Cheese
Caroline Cockayne
Gary Sutton
Jennifer Tomlinson
Mandy Yeomans

Shepherds: Christopher Forbes
Leslie Gough
Malcolm Mitchell
John O'Toole
Valerie Pritchard
Davison Romain
Christine Saddington
Paul Worthington



1971, last play at the old school before the move to the new school.



My class in '77'

Back row, left to right: Mrs. Ward, Ian Newton, Shirley Plunkett, Adrian Murray, Juliet Forbes.
Front row, left to right: Helen Mart, Joanne Perkins, Karen Weeks, Jennifer Berrisford, Christine Saddington





Last P.E. 1977



School leavers 1977

THE YEAR 1963-64

I read with interest the 84th. Annual Report for the year ended 31st. March 1964 of the Royal School for the Deaf which included the Roe Memorial House for the Deaf.

The school's roll of pupils in the *Main School* were:

Boarders	39 girls	60 boys	total of 99
Day pupils	8 girls	3 boys	total of 16

Nursery Unit - Mrs. I. M. Perry was in charge. The infants had an early start in speech, lip-reading and language.

Boarders	8 girls	3 boys	total of 16
Day pupils	4 girls	3 boys	total of 7

The full total was 138 pupils (140 was recorded!) They were mainly from Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire and Staffordshire but some came from other distant places.

Jobs for school leavers included garage mechanic, coach-building, sewing and cutting in large clothing factories, and temporary card-board factory work.

Further Education Few went onto further education -in 'Dress', Dress Design and Commercial Art at Derby and District College of Art; Motor Vehicle Maintenance Course at Derby Technical College.

In May, 1963 Miss. Dorothy Berrisford, my sister, gained the City & Guilds 'Dress', 1st. Class Pass and Miss. Joan Widdowson, the East Midlands Educational Union 'Dress Design', Second Class Pass.

Since then, more and more deaf pupils or school leavers had enrolled at local colleges in their preparation for a better job.



ROE MEMORIAL HOUSE FOR THE DEAF ADULT

Report for the year ended 31st. March 1964 showed that the numbers of Deaf people on the Register were 295. 116 from the County Borough Area and 179 from the County Area.

Mr. G. Wilby was the new Superintendent and his wife, 'a lady worker', of the Roe House. Their work involved:

- 127 visits to and in connection with employment
- 260 visits for interpretation
- 402 visits for general e.g. hospital or in a home
- 417 interviews given
- 39 Church Services

During the year, no one was unemployed.

The club rooms opened each Wednesday and Saturdays for social activities. Members joined the Midlands Deaf Sports Association in Billiards, Snooker, Darts and Dominoes Leagues, meeting other Deaf people.

Note: The school at Friar Gate was demolished in 1972, 80 years after it was built in 1892. The Roe Memorial Centre was then sold and the Deaf Club is now based at the Rycote Centre (top floor), Parker Street.

P.L.



Mr. G. Wilby 4th from left. Mrs. Wilby 7th from left

DERBY DEAF RAMBLING CLUB

Derby Deaf Rambling Club was founded by David Day and Alan Frost and had been running since 1985. At its peak the membership rose to 45. Presently it has reduced due members having new families or have other interests.



At Whernside, Ribblesdale, Yorkshire

Their favourite walks in Derbyshire were Ladybower, Hathersage, Dovedale Dales, Eyam, Over Haddon, Tissington, Ashbourne and Cromford Canal. Some of the other areas walked were at Malham Cove, Yorkshire Dales (including those three hills at Ribblesdale), the delightful Lake District, wet Snowdonia and picturesque Scotland. They really enjoyed those weekends there. They did some walks around Staffordshire and Cheshire too with Stoke Deaf members.



Sucha Singh Dhamrait rambling

SUCHA SINGH DHAMRAIT

Coming to Britain

I was born in Fiji on May 20th 1944. I lived on a farm with my parents, two brothers and a sister. I didn't go to school as there was not a school for deaf children, only for hearing children. I spent a lot of my time riding bare back around our farm on my white horse and helping with the farm work. My father wanted me to have an education so the farm was sold and we moved to India. I can remember looking out of the plane window and watching the small island of Fiji disappearing. I was extremely sad and upset.

I still did not go to school in India, then my father heard of the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby, in Britain. He was told that Derby was a nice town and that the school was very good. There was a deaf school in London but he did not like the thought of living in such a big busy city. My Father moved to Derby, got a job and set up a home. My 2 brothers followed. Finally, in 1958, I came over to Britain with my mother. I thought my father's house was beautiful. It had lovely furniture and a small black and white television. I had never seen a television before. I really enjoyed watching the wrestling. It was so different from the wrestling I had seen in Indian. I was mesmerised. I would have to be dragged away from it.

My father's house was freezing! England was cold. When I arrived there was thick snow on the ground. I had never seen snow before. I had to be wrapped up in many layers to keep warm. It had always been so warm in Fiji and India.

England just seemed so different. The roads in Fiji were small dirt tracks, everywhere was dusty. Here in England everything was beautiful and clean, the houses, people's clothes. There was no sea. In Fiji I would hunt for fish at night with a burning torch and a spear. There were plenty of fish, crabs and other sea creatures to eat. I was surprised to see men sitting on the bank of the river with fishing rods! Where were the coconut trees? In Fiji I would climb up coconut trees, with my ankles tied. Then pull off the coconuts and throw them to the ground, where I would chop open the nut, drink the milk and eat the white flesh. Also, I had never seen white people. When I arrived in Britain everyone was white. I didn't know people had different coloured skins.

My father and brother took me to the Royal School for the Deaf in

Derby. I was very frightened. Everyone was signing what were they saying? Mr. Whittaker the headteacher showed me a long thin cane which I looked at in horror. It was for punishing naughty children. It was explained to me that if I was a good boy then I would not be caned. I was going to be good!

Before the first meal I was surprised to see that the children did not wash their hands. Me and my family always did. Then I wondered what the metal thing were on either side of my plate and at the top. I had never used cutlery before. I had always eaten with my hands. I started eating with my hands and I got a wallop from one of the teachers. I did not know why.

The school looked huge to me. I was told my bed was on the third floor. I can remember the stairs seemed to go on forever. The children played with toys. What were they for? I had never had a toy before. I did not understand anything the teachers taught me. Everything just went over my head, maths, adding, subtracting, reading, writing, just everything. There was just so much to learn as well as how to sign and communicate with people. I felt that my head would explode.

I was the first child at the school with dark brown coloured skin. All the other children were white. I am a Sikh. I had beautiful long thick black hair that had grown to below my bottom. It was in a long ponytail from the top of my head and tied in a bun. The other children teased me, they would pull my hair so I was very disappointed when my father cut it off.

When I went to the bathroom some children grabbed me and held my hand behind my back while they scrubbed the other hand. They scrubbed with a rough scrubbing brush until my hand was red raw. They wanted to see if the colour would come off. I told a teacher who the children were and they were disciplined. They could not understand that I was born abroad and was of a different race.

I was good at sports. I was fast at long distances, 440 yards, 800 yards and cross country. I teacher arranged for me to join the Derby and County Athletic Club. All the members were hearing and training was every Wednesday evening. On Saturdays, we travelled all over the country competing in cross country races. I had a wonderful time. I tried to get in the Deaf team to go to America but I arrived too late at the trials in Sheffield so I didn't qualify.

Every Friday we use to go swimming at the local baths. I had swam in the sea before but had never learnt proper strokes nor dived. I enjoyed learning how to swim properly.

After I left school I wanted a 21st. birthday party the same as my white deaf friends. My father explained to me that I was actually 23 not 21. I had been two years older than I thought I was! So I had a small group of friends for a meal instead. All the time I had been 2 years older, that was why I was taller than my friends and had grown a beard before them. It all made sense now.

I have lived in Derby ever since and have never returned to Fiji. I wish I could go back just to have a look.







May 30th. 1962. White City Manchester. Such holding the banner

HIS SILENT WORLD...

But now Sucha knows that sound exists

SUCHA SINGH lived in India. His father kept goats and ten-year-old Sucha helped to milk them. But for this little, dark-skinned boy the world was a strange and silent place. He made no sound, he heard no sound. For Sucha was—and still is—stone deaf.

The most momentous day in his young life—although he was not aware of it then—was April 16 last year. It was the day after that, after travelling 6,000 miles from his home he became a pupil of the Royal School for the Deaf at Derby.

No one may ever know what went on in the mind of this little boy during the first ten years of his life when he was completely unaware of the existence of sound, when he could make little communication with the people around him, and when he lived in a land and under conditions where, to be born deaf meant that society had nothing to offer him.

Now life is beginning to mean something to the boy who has impressed the whole staff of the school with his high degree of politeness. There is a gleam of great intelligence in his dark eyes. On the day I went to see him, he spoke to me. He said "Hello." The word is one of the few he can speak but soon there will be many more. It is a great triumph that in the year he has been at the Derby school, Sucha has been shown there is such a thing as sound and that by forming his mouth and tongue in a particular way and breathing out he can convey meaning to other people.

The story of this Pakistani boy is one of the most human and moving ever told in Derby. It is one in which every ratepayer of the town plays a part—for the £300 a year it costs to keep Sucha at the school is being provided by the ratepayers through Derby Education Committee.

This is how it all came about. Sucha was born in Fiji in 1948, and he was living in India, helping his father with the goats when his parents received a message from an uncle who had come to live in Derby.

HE STAYED...

The uncle's praise of life in this country decided Sucha's parents - they came too. With them came Sucha's brothers but Sucha himself, the boy with whom no one could com-



SUCHA—a boy of few words, but soon there will be many more

municate stayed behind with his grandparents. But his uncle was concerned about him. He made enquiries at the School for the Deaf. Could anything be done for Sucha?

The wheels were set into motion. Sucha was British-born, his parents were now living in Derby and so the boy in India qualified. His uncle arranged for him to make the journey, an approach was made to Derby Education Committee, all approvals were given and in April last year the education of Such Singh began.

Most deaf children begin their education in a school such as this when they are five or even younger. Sucha began with a five-year handicap, in a strange country among people with a different coloured skin. It seemed that

everything was against him.

HE LEARNS...

Yet today, Sucha is a bright eyed smiling boy. He is eager to learn, he is beginning to know what life is all about, he is showing great promise of skill with his hands, he is good at sports, he is learning to communicate with others by word of mouth, by signs and by the written word.

"He is now really one of the boys," says Mr. J. B. Whittaker, Headmaster of the school. "No longer is he a stranger in a strange land."

His class teacher predicts a good future for him. "He will make a skilled craftsman or an engineer," she says.

Sucha Singh has been given his chance by the people of Derby, and they can feel proud at the way he is taking it.

TREVOR JOHNS

Duke of Edinburgh Award
Royal School for the Deaf

I started at the school on Monday, September 6th. 1960 and I finished at the school on Friday, April 15th. 1965.

I remember when I first started the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, I was aged 14. There were a group of children doing the award at the same time as me. It was at the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby at Friar Gate.

The award was to be achieved over a six month period. There was a lot of activities that had to be undertaken to achieve the certificate, hiking, walking, map reading, swimming, football, canoeing and helping people.

The Mayor at the time came to the school to present the awards to the children, we all got our medals and a certificate.

We had a very nice day and I felt very proud to be part of the scheme.



Metal Shop



Receiving the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Trevor Johns on the left. David Clappitt in the middle



Receiving the Duke of Edinburgh Award 1965



Andrew Gillespie 1996

ANDREW GILLESPIE

I was born on June 2nd 1949 at Ilkeston hospital. My Dad was a policeman. It was hot that year I was born. I lived in an old house, there were no pavements. My Mum used to put me out in the pram. One day a lady pushed me away. Mam looked everywhere for me.

I started school in 1955 when I was 5 years old, I went to Cotmanhay Infants. In 1957 I had my tonsils out. When I was 10, I went to Stanton Vale School for the Handicapped in Ilkeston. I made carpets I chucked my books away!

At school I didn't have hearing aids, and my first hearing aid was a big body aid. I didn't Sign and I had glasses when I was eight.

I have gone deaf and blind over the years, Martin O'Neill has taught me to sign.

In 1965 I went to work at Eaton Vale, I mopped the floors and did woodwork, I made a bird stand. On Fridays I washed cars in Ilkeston. I got half a crown or 2 bob. Top pay was £30.

I have 2 sisters and 1 brother. My mum and dad have died. Year's back my sister was knocked off her bike. I used to ride a bike with my brother.

Our last holiday in 1968, my father was in a wheelchair, he died in 1991. My mum had a bungalow after he died. Mam died before New Year in 1995. All our family was very sad.

Now I am going to College, Gary my friend comes with me.

Years back I had a blind man helping me he had a dog, lots of people helped me.

In August 1995 I went to the flat, but I didn't like it. I couldn't lock the door at night-time.

On Tuesday I come to Two-can with Phill and James and on Thursdays with Debbie and Phill, I like it. I've been down the pit with Jane.

I like horse-riding, holidays, and swimming and cooking, cooking is important to me. On Saturdays I clean the house.

I have been to Spain we went when Dad came out of hospital. We went to Blackpool in October and stayed in a holiday flat. We went to Margate Butlins at the Bank Holiday. I went to Jersey last year with Gary, I chose Gary to help me he is my guide.

I am thinking that I would like a dog. I want a bungalow, a dog and a lady. I'm fed up of people talking about handicapped, I'm not handicapped, and I am clever!

I can't believe this is going in a book, In a bookshop, about my family and my life I am very happy about it!



Andrew and his sister Joan



Andrew aged 11 with Mum, Dad and sister Pam

AILEEN SHERROD

In 1954 I was born at Burton-on-Trent Hospital but had lived in New Hall and moved to the Midway, Swadlincote at age of three and half years old.

At the same time I went to Derby Deaf Nursery at Friargate, next door to the Deaf school, where I moved into the Infants when I was five until I was seven years old. I stayed at the school midweek and came home at weekends and during school holidays. The clothes were awful, itching, jumpers in bright red, royal blue or grass green to go with navy skirts with two thin straps. My nightie hugged me at the armpits, not very comfortable.

Boys and girls were kept apart, unlike the Nursery, one supervisor was cruel. She dragged off the beddings rather than tapping on the beds to wake us up. Every morning we had a spoonful of lovely Vitrol from a nurse. We had to queue up for this.

At all mealtimes, we had to say Grace before we started to eat. For breakfast we had cocoa, a 'blob' of horrible lumpy porridge followed by bread, butter and jam. Sometimes we had corn flakes. The cocoa was poured from a large 'watercan' and was usually cold! I remembered when I was thirteen, we had cornflakes and the food was a lot better. Before that dinner was served with a ladle, from a large tin deep tray with all the vegetables and meat in the same tray. We must eat everything, even a piece of fat. At each end of the table, a Senior person would sit and watch over us. The puddings, I remembered were the prunes (ugh!!), lovely steamed pudding with jam or treacle. We always had fish and rice pudding on Fridays.

In class, we had audiology, news-letter reading and writing replies, cookery, lot of maths, singing, art, history and sewing. On Fridays my thoughts was for home. We had sport competitions against other schools at Blackpool and went to the funfair afterwards. We also had yearly trip to the Drayton Manor Park Zoo at Tamworth. I remembered the Open Day when two important ladies came to school and we had a photo together in the Art class. I was also on the front cover of one of the school's reports.

At 16, we were allowed to pop across the road to a small shop. At most times we stayed inside the school walls like a prison. When I left school, it was a big shock to come out into hearing world. It had

been a struggle. I never went out with deaf friends or to the Deaf Club, always with my Mum and Dad, not using signing much. At most times we talked but it was not easy. One deaf friend I would love to meet is Margaret Smith - where is she?

I left school in 1970 and worked at Burton - sewing, pressing, etc. and I was always frustrated. No one talked to me. No one to sign to me, I felt alone. Workers talked behind my back. I felt uncomfortable. Things have changed now. More people are learning to sign and I feel better. Some of my neighbours and friends can sign. I now have more friends who talk to me.

I now have a husband, who is learning to sign, with two lovely children and we live in Woodville, near Swadlincote.











CHRISTINE MANSON

I was born on the first of August, nineteen sixty-three in Belper and called Christine Brown. My mother's name is Barbara and she is hearing. My father's name is Michael and he is hearing. One year later, Mum had twins. One boy, one girl, both hearing. I lived with my family at Somercotes. At two and half I started nursery. In the morning I was on my own, in the afternoon my Mum would come and help.

At five years old I went to infant school, Ewing School for the Deaf, Nottingham. I stayed there until I was twelve. There I was taught to speak with a balloon. I was taught how to feel the vibrations. I learnt to write with dot to dot. We went swimming and I learnt to swim with floats. I improved so much, I won a gold medal. My Mum and Dad came to watch me.

Every year at Christmas the school would put on a show for our parents. One year I was a reindeer. We all, boys and girls together, danced for our parents. The teachers gave us a lot of practice. My mum and Dad always came and watched.



Ewing School. Christine 2nd from the right on the back row



Ewing school. Christine 2nd. from the left

In school we learnt many things every day. Like how to ride a bike. When I was learning to ride at school I was riding the bike down a hill when I hit a tree. I did not cry, the children ran after me. I was all right and walked away. The children started laughing at me.

At twelve, I moved schools to William Sharp School in Nottingham for deaf and hearing children. In that school when the teachers taught us English and Maths, they separated the deaf children from the hearing children. I think we were separated because they gave us easy work. Deaf children need a lot more understanding and patience. The deaf children were taught sign language from the teacher. They only brought deaf and hearing children together for cookery, P.E. needle work, metal work, wood work, dinner time and play time. In the first year, at that school, some deaf children taught hearing children sign language and made friends.

When I was fourteen I went on a week camping holiday. We were all deaf, the girls had one tent and the boys had another. the teacher had a different tent. We played rounders, went for walks and helped with the every day things.



Christine on the right with her brother and sister



Christine at William Sharp School

At fifteen, I had a chance to go around the world on a ship. I went expecting a lovely holiday. A cruise for two whole weeks, lovely. We all met at school on the morning of the trip as normal. Then the school bus took us all down to London to catch the plane. We waited for about three hours at the airport. The plane met the cruise. There were two different schools on the trip, one was Nottingham School for the Deaf and the other was Derby School for the Deaf. When we arrived on ship, the teacher took us to look round and show us where our bedrooms were and other important points. We were all mixed in together, Derby Deaf School and the Nottingham group. The teachers just put girls with girls and boys with boys. We all made friends together, but I can not remember peoples' names. Next day the girls bedroom was a mess! The teacher told all the girls to clean it up and told us how it was most important to keep it clean and that there was a prize for the tidiest.

There was a swimming pool on board and a disco and many more different things. I was told we had to work, write stories and things. I thought this was awful. I went expecting a lovely holiday for two whole weeks, not work! But there was some time for fun. We had a fancy dress party. I was a hula hula girl. A pupil from the other school won.

We visited Malta, Turkey, Venice, and many more different places that I can not remember. When we went to Turkey, we walked up five hundred steps. Some children didn't want to walk up the steps, so they rode on donkeys. There was a path for them. Our teacher took us for a walk round Turkey to look at the sights. A Turkish boy pinched our teacher's bottom. We also visited Athens to look at the sights. I thought it was a very old place. We bought things from different places. We looked round so many places it is hard to remember.

When we had finished our holiday the last place we saw was Malta. There we caught the plane back to London. Then, the school bus took us back to school arriving in the afternoon. When we got back to school I went to a friend's house in a taxi with my friend. I stayed at my friend's for one night. Then the next day my friend's mam drove me home.

It was the best holiday I have ever had.





ASHLEY KITCHEN

Early Years

My name is Ashley Kitchen; I was born in Derby at the City Hospital, on April 23rd 1986. I was born deaf with no speech at all. My mum and dad learned to sign in the beginning with Hazel Garnett and at a later stage with Martin O'Neill.

In the early years I remember very little about communication within the family, I was too small to remember although my family tried very hard. I think I was about aged 2 or 3 before I started to understand basic signing, then all of a sudden it came to me, I could communicate! Mum and Dad could understand me and I them, next it was Nana and Grandads turn to sign, this they learnt through me. They are still learning even now! It's a long time for the old ones to learn.

When I was growing up I remember having lots of very nice Christmas's with lots of presents. I was lucky because I am the only child and some of my friends are not so lucky. Mum, Dad and I went to the Derby Deaf Club Children's Christmas party's every year for a long time, I don't go now as I am too big.

I started nursery when I was three and half, I went to Reigate in Mackworth, which is in Derby. I stayed there for about one year. I then went to the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby, this January I will have been there 9 years. It is a lovely school and I really enjoy being there.

I am proud to be deaf and have no problems with being deaf. All family can sign and if I have any worried I can talk to either mum or dad or even the teachers at school.

I think I am doing very well at school because I have just moved up to a higher class and I hope to be able to take my GCSE's a year early.

Mummy works in the deaf community helping deaf people to learn English and Maths, daddy works all over the country in the rail industry travelling every day.

Daddy was secretary for the Deaf Derby Children's Society for a number of years and is now a Governor at the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby.

I like reading comics a lot this helps with my English; I also like Maths, History and IT, these are my favourite subjects. I like cars as well and in the future I am going to buy a Mini Cooper.

When I leave school I am going to go to College to study more in Computers, then I hope to get a job working in this area.

I would like to get married in the future to a lady that is either deaf or hearing, but she would have to be able to communicate fluently with me, to stand any chance at all!



Ashley at the Deaf Club Christmas Party



Ashley's Mum and Dad



1998, Ashley's Family in Ireland



Ashley at the Royal School for the Deaf, aged 5

Our Faith is Based on Thee

Hands of Jesus be thou mine,
Through my hands Lord let me sign.
Prayers, Confessions, Songs divine,
And our **faith** in Thee.

Signs of love and stories sweet,
Of the day when we shall meet,
Signing round our Heavenly Seat,
With our **faith** in Thee.

Jesus help us sign each day,
Help us sign what we must Pray.
Help us sign the words you say
Strengthen our **faith** in Thee.

Sign to us in Your own words,
Sign to us, We love you Lord.
Sign to us with the Hosts above,
Our **faith** is based on Thee.

Source unknown.



